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—1803—

# PIONEER HISTORY

of the

## Braasch Family

1803 - 1956

—1956—



as compiled by  
MRS. HERMAN WAGNER  
Pierce, Nebraska



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1880

# WOMEN HISTORY

of the

## British Empire

— 1880 —



BY  
MRS. J. H. B. [illegible]  
[illegible]





2009816

Dear Reader:

Please check the history of your family and let me know if there are any mistakes or additions. Any such errors or omissions will be typed and mimeographed and distributed in September and October.

Please enclose your name and address with your information.

Sincerely,

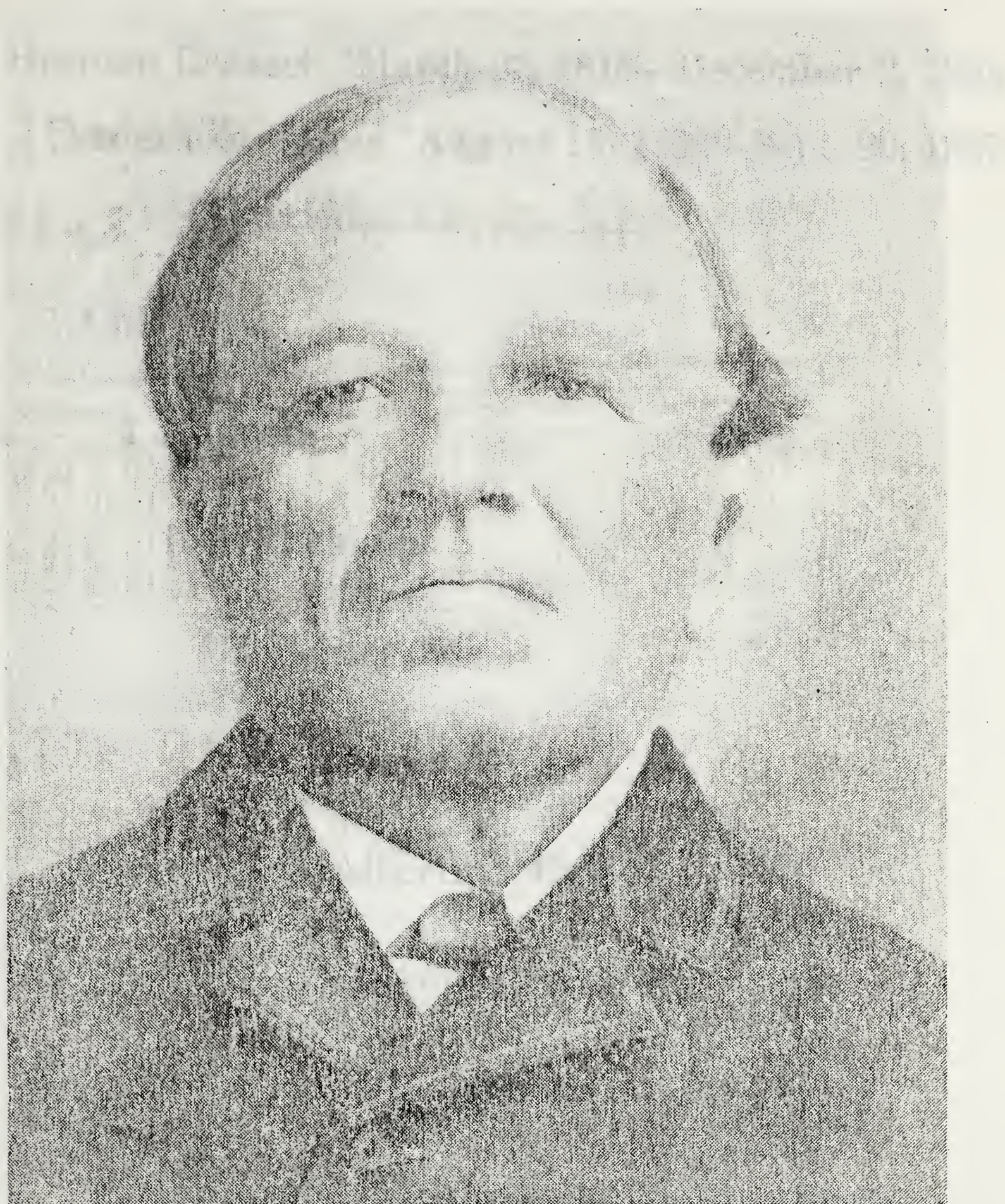
*Mrs Elvira Hestand*  
*Omaha, Nebraska*  
*RH 2 - 68765*

*Rec'd aug 7-1978*





*Braasch Clan*



HERMAN BRAASCH

MARCH 22, 1818—DECEMBER 2, 1893







# *Braasch Clan*

Herman Braasch \*March 22, 1818—December 2, 1893

Fredericka Yager \*August 15, 1803—Sept. 20, 1867

Married -----

Children:

I Augusta

II Wilhelmina

III Frederick

IV Herman

V Albertina Emily

VI August Wilhelm

VII Johanna Marie Louise

VIII Marie Louise Augusta

IX Edward Henry Wilhelm

Alvina Wille

X Alvina



# Chronology

I. Augusta Braasch \*  
 Ferdinand Haase \*  
 Married—

## Gustav Müller u. Emilie Haase

empfehlen sich als Verlobte,

und erlauben Sie *Land & Leute* freudlichst bei ihrer  
 am Donnerstag den 22. Januar 1891 stattfindenden

*Hochzeitfeier*

sie durch Ihre Gegenwart zu erheuen. Die Feier beginnt Vor-  
 mittags 10 Uhr im Hause des Herrn Ferdinand Haase in  
 Norfolk, und die Trauung findet statt Vor-  
 mittags 11 Uhr in der Ev. Luth. St. Paulskirche zu Norfolk, Neb.

### Wedding Invitation—1891

1. Louise Marie Haase \*March 4, 1867—June 4, 19\_\_  
 Martin Pahn \*  
 Married—

1. (a). Marie Emilie Pahn \*Aug. 7, 1888  
 William Miller \*Mar. 26, 1888  
 Married—October 11, 1912

1. (b). Lorraine Miller \*Dec. 31, 1916  
 Alvin Johnson \*  
 Married—

1. (c). Virgil Johnson \*Oct. 25, 1938

2. (b). Glenn Miller \*June 23, 1918  
 June Reed \*  
 Married—Aug. 21, 1938

1. (c). Glenn Robert Miller \*Mar. 16, 1940

2. (c). Barbara Ann \*Mar. 4, 1941





3. (c). Janet Marie \*Jan. 1, 1944
2. (a). Anna A. Pahn \*May 5, 1890  
Ed Bivins \*July  
Married—July 27, 1913  
Harold G. Leshner  
Married—Nov. 21, 1952
3. (a). George F. Pahn \*Aug. 12, 1892—Nov. 12, 1953  
Married—
  1. (b). George Albert Pahn, Jr.
4. (a). Doris A. Pahn \*Dec. 29, 1894  
Paul E. Dunaway  
Married—
5. (a). Albert M. Pahn \*April 24, 1895  
Maude Nelson \*  
Married—
2. Emilie Wilhelmina Haase \*Dec. 5, 1867—Dec. 5, 1919  
Gus Miller \*July 2, 1860—Oct. 14, 1937  
Married—Jan. 22, 1891
  1. (a). Dorothy Miller \*Nov. 4, 1891  
Everett Ferris \*May 2, 1892  
Married—April 7, 1910
    1. (b). Gladys Ferris \*June 30, 1913  
William Stasch \*Jan. 11, 1911  
Married—
      1. (c). Jerry Stasch \*Febr. 13, 1935  
Rose Mary Powel \*Nov. 23, 1934  
Married—April 10, 1955
    2. (c). Francis Stasch \*Nov. 7, 1936
  2. (b). Waunita Ferris \*May 27, 1918  
Mathews  
Married—
    1. (c). Jay Mathews \*May 22, 1937
  2. (c). Pamela Ann \*Febr. 18, 1944



2. (a). Alex Miller \*Aug. 3, 1893  
Minnie Bernhardt \*Jan. 31, 1892  
Married—Nov. 22, 1914
3. (a). Josephine Miller \*Jan. 24, 1896  
Arthur Dederman \*Sept. 9, 1888  
Married—Febr. 2, 1913
1. (b). Benjamin Arthur Dederman \*May 19, 1917  
Mildred Marie Kraemer \*July 24, 1924  
Married—Aug. 25, 1947
1. (c). Linda Marie \*Jan. 7, 1950
2. (c). Christie Ann \*July 30, 1954
2. (b). Jeanette Lois Dederman \*July 2, 1924
3. (b). Arthur Harold Dederman \*Oct. 11, 1926
4. (a) Elmer Miller \*June 15, 1898  
Ann Warmstedt \*March 19, 1901  
Married—March 19, 1947
3. Henry Ferdinand Haase \*June 6, 1872—Aug. 16, 1948  
Helen Thielman \*Aug. 13, 1874—January 9, 1911  
Married—
1. (a). Ada Helen Haase \*Nov. 3, 1897—  
Oscar Hoefs \*Jan. 25, 1895  
Married—June 3, 1920
1. (b) Kenneth O. Hoefs \*Mar. 8, 1921—Aug. 5, 1925  
Died in car accident
2. (b). Nadine Helen Hoefs \*April 19, 1923  
Edward J. Kasal \*May 10, 1922  
Married—May 10, 1952
1. (c). Kay Helen Kasal \*Oct. 25, 1953
3. (b). Norma Jean Hoefs \*Aug. 18, 1927  
Rodger C. Anderson \*Febr. 18, 1928  
Married—Oct. 5, 1952
1. (c). Timothy Anderson \*Sept. 15, 1953





4. Josephine Alvina Haase \*Nov. 17, 1870—July 6, 1919  
 Otto Zuelow \*Febr. 29, 1866—Oct. 17, 1929  
 Married—May 6, 1896
  1. (a). Esther Zuelow \*Oct. 26, 1897  
 Conrad Beitz \*Jan. 13, 1891  
 Married—Oct. 26, 1915
    1. (b). Vernon Otto Beitz \*Oct. 10, 1917  
 Ella Herman \*  
 Married—May 6, 1939
      1. (c). John Beitz \*Sept. 21, 1940
    2. (c). Jean Beitz \*Oct. 1, 1941
    3. (c). Catheryne Beitz \*July 11, 1944
    4. (c). Margarete Beitz \*Oct. 28, 1945
    5. (c). James Beitz \*Dec. 16, 1947
  2. (a). Gertrude Zuelow \*Aug. 23, 1904  
 Harry Scheer \*Nov. 12, 1903—  
 Married—May 5, 1925
    1. (b). Carl Scheer \*Jan. 25, 1928  
 Barbara Clark  
 Married—
      1. (c). Pamela Scheer \*Nov. 16, 1948
    - 2 (b). Geanette Esther Scheer \*September 28, 1928  
 Joseph E. Ferris \*Febr. 23, 1928  
 Married—Dec. 16, 1950
      1. (c). Randall Elias Ferris \*Aug. 6, 1951
      2. (c). Reggy Joe Ferris \*June 6, 1953
  5. Julius Emil Haase \*Dec. 28 ----—May 22, 1944  
 Martha Hellermann \*June 30, 1880  
 Married—June 11, 1903
    1. (a). Irma Haase \*Aug. 23, 1905  
 Thomas Bowie \*Aug. 13, 1905  
 Married—Oct. 10, 1930
      1. (b). Thomas Karl Bowie \*Sept. 26, 1933  
 Nancy Stephen \*  
 Married—Dec. 29, 1952



1. (c). Pamela Lynn Bowie \*April 4, 1955
2. (b). Carolyn Martha Bowie \*March 19, 1936
2. (a). Carl Julius Haase \*April 9, 1912  
Mary Murphy \*  
Married—
3. (a). Irene Haase \*Nov. 13, 1913  
Howard N. Hypse \*  
Married—
  1. (b). Bette Ann Hypse \*Oct. 16, 1943
4. (a). Herbert M. Haase \*Nov. 13, 1913  
Maxine Saunders \*  
Married—
  1. (b). Judith Lee Haase \*
  2. (b). Mark S. Haase \*
6. Anna Haase \*July 7, 1883—July 7, 1952  
John A Huebner \*Sept. 9, 1879—Nov. 24, 1948  
Married—April 6, 1904
  1. (a). Marguerite Huebner \*Aug. 13, 1905—Aug. 20, 1953  
Conrad Proehl \*April 11, 1904  
Married—June 5, 1929
  2. (a). Harold G. Huebner \*Mar. 31, 1907—Dec. 24, 1954  
Anna E. Krieger \*March 17, 1905—Dec. 22, 1935  
Married—Oct. 16, 1933
    1. (b). Jeannine B. Huebner \*Dec. 22, 1935

Velda Atkins \*Nov. 4, 1912  
Married—May 10, 1937

  3. (a). Rueben E. Huebner \*April 11, 1909  
Hazel Fay \*Jan. 24, 1908  
Married—Sept. 1, 1940

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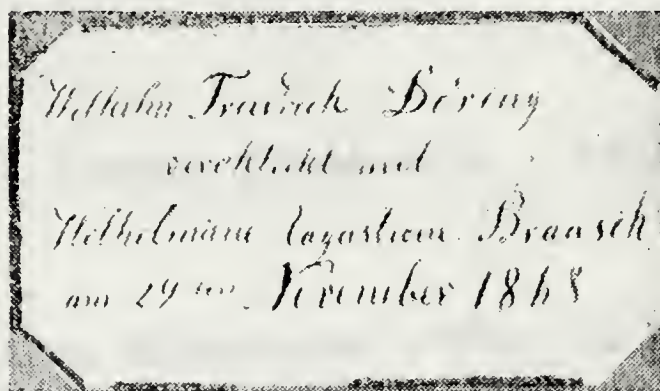


4. (a). Helen L. Huebner \*Sept. 7, 1913—May 26, 1954  
 James W. Snyder, Jr. \*Aug. 13, 1912  
 Married—May 19, 1939  
 1. (b). Susan Jane Snyder \*Jan. 26, 1944

2. (b). Carol Anne Snyder \*Jan. 23, 1948

5. (a). Ruth I. Huebner \*Aug. 10, 1918  
 Marurice H. Osman \*May 29, 1915  
 Married—Aug. 10, 1940  
 1. (b). Neal Gene Osman \*Febr. 28, 1942

- II. Wilhelmina Braasch \*July 4, 1843—Febr. 5, 1907  
 William Duehring \*Sept. 17, 1848—Jan. 20, 1916  
 Married—



Wedding Certificate—1868

1. Emma Emily Duehring \*July 30, 1873—Sept. 6, 1948  
 Fred Lau \*May 9, 1866—April --, 1923  
 Married—Nov. 19,  
 1. (a). Luella Lau \*July 20, 1899  
 Henry Ellenberger \*Febr. 5, 1897.  
 Married—Febr. 3, 1921  
 1. (b). Irene Ellenberger \*April 2, 1923  
 Alfred Manty \*May 3, 1915  
 Married—April 28, 1946  
 1. (c). Douglas Manty \*Febr. 13, 1949  
 2. (c). Curtis Manty \*July 7, 1950  
 3. (c). Marla Kay Manty \*Jan. 16, 1952



- 2.(b). Lorina Ellenberger \*April 10, 1925  
Ervin Kumm \*April 15, 1922  
Married—Sept. 1, 1946
  1. (c). Irene Jeanette E. Kumm \*Sept. 1, 1947
2. (c). Leland Ervin Kumm \*Jan. 21, 1949
3. (c). Warren Dean Kumm \*Nov. 25, 1950
4. (c). Gorden Gene \*October 4, 1953
3. (b). Gerald Ellenberger \*March 3, 1928  
Wanda Webster \*Jan. 11, 1932  
Married—Febr. 27, 1950
  1. (c). Robert Ellenberger \*Nov. 3, 1951
  2. (c). Sandra Ellenberger \*Mar. 29, 1954
4. (b). Lester Ellenbreger \*Nov. 12, 1929  
Dana Ruth Glaze \*Nov. 12, 1929  
Married—Aug. 7, 1949
  1. (c). Roger Lee Ellengerger \*July 31, 1950
  2. (c). Richard Allen Ellenberger \*Nov. 10, 1952
5. (b). Victor Ellenberger \*Jan. 19, 1934  
(Service in Alaska)
2. (a). Fred Lau, Jr. \*April 16, 1905  
Linda Winter \*Dec. 21, 1905  
Married—Oct. 13, 1926
  1. (b). Glen Lau \*Oct. 20, 1929  
Elba McGee \*Sept. 22, 1929  
Married—June 13, 1951





2. (b). Veryl Lau      \*Nov. 10, 1931  
Myron Riggert      \*July 18, 1930  
Married—Nov. 29, 1953
3. (b). Carolyn Lau      \*Sept. 3, 1934  
Clair O. Thompson      \*Febr. 12, 1935  
Married—Nov. 24, 1954
4. (b). Ronald Lau      \*June 26, 1936
5. (b). Judith Lau      \*May 9, 1943
3. (a). Herbert Lau      \*Jan. 20, 1910  
Erna Pufahl      \*Dec. 29, 1911  
Married—Jan. 1, 1933
1. (b). Lois Lau      \*Oct. 4, 1935  
Jerome Wendt      \*Dec. 2, 1933  
Married—April 10, 1955
2. (b). Donald Lau      \*Aug. 7, 1937
3. (b). Lou Jean Lau      \*July 2, 1943
4. (a). Harold Lau      \*May 24, 1911  
Guenlin Maulding      \*Febr. 19, 1918  
Married—Sept. 6, 1939
1. (b). Larry Lau      \*Nov. 24, 1944
5. (a). Irene Lau      \*Febr. 2, 1891—Nov. 26, 1900
2. Martha Mathilda Duehring      June 26, 1875—May 25, 1901  
Gus Sellin      \*May 3, 1868—Aug. 22, 1946  
Married April —, 1895
1. (a). Arnold Deering      \*March 17, 1894  
Marie Franz      \*March 29, 1894  
Married—June 25, 1916
1. (b). Charles Willard Deering      \*May 10, 1929  
(Adopted)  
Ruth Watson      \*July 26, 1931  
Married—Aug. 10, 1950
1. (c). Carol Deering      \*Nov. 23, 1950



2. (c). Charles Deering, Jr. \*Jan. 6, 1952
3. (c). Judith Deering \*Febr. 26, 1953
2. (a). Minnie Sellin \*April 6, 1898  
Ernest Pfiel \*March 12, 1893  
Married—Jan. 26, 1919
1. b). Evelyn Pfiel \*Sept. 25, 1924  
Edgar Schreiner \*Febr. 24, 1925  
Married—Nov. 23, 1952
1. (c). Diane Kay Schreiner \*March 18, 1954
2. (b). Marvin Pfiel \*May 18, 1927
3. (a). Ernest Sellin \*Aug. 23, 1899  
Luella Juhl \*June 21, 1903  
Married—Febr. 8, 1923
1. (b). Duane Sellin \*March 23, 1928  
Doris Eberhart \*Mar. 19, 1930  
Married—June 24, 1951
1. (c). Garry Sellin \*May 14, 1952
2. (c). Nancy Sellin \*Jan. 20, 1954
4. (a). Martha Sellin \*May 20, 1901  
William Raschke \*Febr. 21, 1896  
Married—June 18, 1919
1. (b). William Raschke, Jr. \*Sept. 15, 1920  
Dottie Pring \*Oct. 31, 1925  
Married—June 5, 1942
1. (c). Judy Ann Raschke \*Febr. 3, 1945
2. (c). Rodney Raschke \*Oct. 11, 1946
3. (c). Frederick Raschke \*Sept. 28, 1950
4. (c). Pamela Raschke \*Sept. 9, 1951





2. (b). Emilie Raschke \*June 17, 1922  
Richard Mnlac \*June 8, 1922  
Married—Sept. 24, 1942  
1. (c). Debbie Mnlac \*Aug. 23, 1953

3. (b). Marian Raschke \*Jan. 21, 1925  
Frances A. Fierce \*Sept. 22, 1920  
Married—Febr. 19, 1943  
1. (c). Susan Fierce \*July 18, 1946

2. (c). Jimmy Fierce \*Oct. 7, 1947

3. (c). Nancy Fierce \*Jan. 27, 1951

4. b). Kenneth Raschke \*June 3, 1933

5. (b). Connie Raschke, Jr. \*May 22, 1943

5. (a). Walter Sellin \*Sept. 27, 1896  
Emma Oestrich \*Jan. 1, 1895  
Married—Febr. 16, 1919  
1. (b). Norma Sellin \*Aug. 2, 1926  
LaJean Adams \*Dec. 14, 1921  
Married—Oct. 18, 1948  
1. (c). Rodger (adopted) \*Jan. 5, 1944

2. (c). Julene \*June 20, 1950

3. (c). Randall \*March 31, 1951

4. (c). Marlene \*July 25, 1953

5. (c). Sharlene \*July 25, 1953

2. (b). Leon Sellin \*Aug. 28, 1929  
Irene Krueger \*Oct. 25, 1933  
Married—May 10, 1951





1. (c). Judy Ann \*July 18, 1954

3. (b). Dorothy Sellin \*Aug. 13, 1921

Dale Duel \*March 21, 1922

Married—Jan. 19, 1947

1. (c). Dwayne Deuel \*Sept. 14, 1948

2. (c). Jayce Carol \*July 9, 1951

3. (c). Lois Remse \*Sept. 21, 1955

4. (b). Delilah Sellin \*May 8, 1935

Ray Dean Ryan

Married—Nov. 2, 1955

3. Marie Louise Duehring \*Jan. 22, 1877—October 19, 1953



Mr. and Mrs. Wm. F. Duehring and Family—1885





III. Frederick Braasch \*Nov. 3, 1850—

Ernestina Stengle \*

Married—

1. Julius Walter Braasch \*Jan. 24, 1877

Luella King \*

Married—

1. (a). Kenneth Braasch

2. (a). Fred Braasch

3. (a). William Braasch

4. (a). Doris Braasch

2. Lenore Luella (Nora) Braasch \*Jan. 19, 1878

3. Luella Marie Braasch \*Sept. 2, 1880

William Day

Married—

1. (a). Wilmot Day

2. (a). Charlotte Day

George Searle

Married—

4. Emma Dora Braasch \*Jan. 3, 1883—

Elmer Pearson

Married—

5. Carl Herman Braasch (Charlie) \*April 29, 1885

Gussie Hubble \*Sept. 1, 1893

Married—June 6, 1916

1. (a). Charles Braasch, Jr. \*Sept. 29, 1918

Ruth Howard

Married—

1. (b). Connie Elizabeth Braasch \*Febr.

2. (a). Robert Braasch \*Aug. 27, 1919

Betty Lou Wasier

Married—



3. (a). Benjamin Braasch \*July 21, 1921  
Antionette Blanchard  
Married—

4. (a). Bernard Braasch \*June 14, 1931  
Betty  
Married—

1. (b). Richard Braasch

2. (b). Debra Ann Braasch

6. Selma Sarah Braasch \*April 6, 1887  
Hugo Rohrke \*Dec. 20, 1885  
Married—Dec. 25, 1908

7. Mina Leota Braasch  
Alfred Shipman  
Married—

1. (a). Jane Marie Shipman  
Robert (Bob) Wallace  
Married—

1. (b). Barbara Wallace

2. (b). Bob, Jr.

2. (a). Milo Shipman

8. Josephine Braasch  
(Died at the age of 2 years)

9. Benjamin Braasch  
Gladys Barlow  
Married—

IV. Herman Braasch \*Dec. 25, 1852—Oct. 7, 1941  
Anne Hoehne \*May 27, 1855—Jan. 16, 1935  
Married at West Point—Nov. 19, 1878

1. Elte Braasch \*April 30, 1878

Emil Braasch \*April 30, 1878—Febr. 13, 1914  
Married—Dec. 15, 1901

1. (a). Gilbert Braasch \*Oct. 16, 1908  
Neva Russel \*Febr. 19, 1912  
Married—April 19, 1931  
Marjorie Mahn \*Dec. 12, 1911  
Married—Sept. 7, 1940





1. (b). Kent B. Braasch \*Oct. 5, 1944
2. (a). Mable Braasch \*June 27, 1906  
Walter Krohn \*Febr. 12, 1905  
Married—Oct. 7, 1928
  1. (b). Susan Ellen Braasch \*Febr. 23, 1930
2. Harriet Braasch \*March 29, 1882  
Carl Drefke \*Dec. 5, 1877—Jan. 16, 1953  
Married—Sept. 30, 1900
  1. (a). Deon Drefke \*Sept. 27, 1901  
(adopted)  
Caroline Sperber \*Sept. 13, 1900  
Married—Dec. 17, 1921
    1. (b). William Drefke \*Sept. 30, 1922  
Doris Shade \*Aug. 9, 1930  
Married—June 12, 1948
      1. (c). Larry Wm. Drefke \*May 31, 1949
  2. (c). Sandra Kay Drefke \*Aug. 16, 1952
  3. (c). Caroline Alice Drefke \*July 23, 1955
2. (a). Celia Drefke \*Oct. 9, 1906  
Fred Templemann \*Dec. 2, 1897  
Married—Dec. 27, 1939
  1. (b). Ruth Ann (Adopted) \*July 5, 1943
3. (a). Lester Drefke \*March 17, 1908  
Loretta Hille \*June 29, 1911  
Married—June 26, 1932
  1. (b). Gary Drefke \*June 19, 1944
4. (a). Ardith Drefke \*Sept. 3, 1916  
Howard Dietz \*Dec. 21, 1916  
Married—Febr. 4, 1943
  1. (b). Robert Carl Dietz \*June 10, 1944
2. (b). Patricia Ann Dietz \*April 19, 1946



3. (b). Kathy Irene Dietz \*Oct. 2, 1947
4. (b). Jeffery John Dietz \*Aug. 28, 1949
5. (a). Elizabeth Drefke \*Aug. 7, 1919  
Robert Macumber \*Mar. 26, 1916  
Married—April 4, 1944
  1. (b). Robert E. Macumber \*Oct. 23, 1944
  2. (b). Douglas C. Macumber \*Oct. 2, 1945
  3. (b). Glen L. Macumber \*August 31, 1946
  4. (b). Joan H. Macumber \*Febr. 2, 1951
3. Edith Braasch \*April 23, 1890—Dec. 8, 1892
- V. Albertina Emily Braasch \*Jan. 10, 1854—Mar. 15, 1925  
August Brisso \*April 2, 1850—Sept. 1, 1900  
Married—Dec. 12, 1874
  1. Clara Brisso \*Sept. 25, 1878—June 12, 1932  
Emil Schultz \*April 5, 1869—Oct. 23, 1943  
Married—Febr. 13, 1896
    1. (a). Walter Schultz \*Dec. 2, 1896  
Minnie Uecker \*Febr. 17, 1898  
Married—June 28, 1917
      1. (b). Deloris Clara Schultz \*Febr. 25, 1919  
Howard Werner Clark \*Jan. 26, 1919  
Married—June 7, 1946
        1. (c). Howard Walter \*Nov. 5, 1949
        2. (c). Marian Clara \*April 12, 1952
        3. (c). Curtis Warner \*July 23, 1955
      2. (b). Marvin Ezra Schultz \*Dec. 2, 1920  
Elizabeth Mary Mathies \*Febr. 15, 1918  
Married—Jan. 30, 1945
        1. (c). Marvin Ezra, Jr. \*March 22, 1947—  
March 23, 1947
        2. (c). Marvin Edward \*October 8, 1949





3. (b). Leland Walter Schultz \*Dec. 16, 1922  
Laura Lee Sangbrush \*  
Married—March 15, 1946

1 (c). William Leland \*April 2, 1947

2. (c). Dennis Neal \*June 1, 1949

3. (c). Donna Lee Schultz \*Sept. 1, 1950

2. (a). Ezra Schultz \*Dec. 9, 1898  
Ellen Hejde \*Jan. 15, 1897  
Married—March 14, 1923

1. (b.) Dwight Schultz. \*May 25, 1932

3. (a). Hattie Schultz \*Oct. 10, 1900  
Louis Henry Browne \*July 5, 1896  
Married—Nov. 16, 1924

1. (b). Robert Louis Browne \*April 26, 1927  
Betty Jo Lindsay  
Married June --, 1947

1. (c). Robert Browne, Jr. \*April 22, 1948

2. (c). Raymond Lee Browne \*Nov. 27, 1949

Divorced first wife.

Betty Mapes \*  
Married—March 4, 1954

2. (b). Gerald Lloyd Browne \*August 18, 1934

4. (a). Alta Schultz \*Sept. 16, 1902  
Forrest Cook \*Aug. 21, 1900  
Married—May 3, 1922

1. (b). Darrel Cook \*April 10, 1923  
Helen Jean Mallory  
Married—Sept. 14, 1946

1. (c). Catheryn Lu Cook \*May 25, 1949



2. (c). Jeffry Cook \*April 30, 1953
2. (b). Lois Elaine Cook \*September 30, 1925  
Leo Reisig, —Jan. 19, 1955  
Married July 14, 1946  
Killed in car accident
1. (c). Charon Reisig \*Oct. 14, 1949
2. (c). Steven Reisig \*July 9, 1953
5. (a). Martin Schultz \*Febr. 3, 1905  
Florence Jaeger \*March 15, 1910  
Married—March 16, 1946
6. (a). Ewald Herman Schultz \*Oct. 25, 1906—Dec. 3, 1954  
Una Mapes \*  
Married—Aug. \_\_, 1928 Divorced—1950
1. (b). Alberta Jean \*Dec. 25, 1930  
S/Sgt. Gajeusky  
Married—
1. (c). Catheryn Gajewsky \*
2. (c). Micheal Gajewsky
7. (a). Victor Schultz, Rev. \*Dec. 27, 1907  
Elinor Nickols \*Dec. 26,  
Married—Febr. , 1935
1. (b). Christina Schultz \*July 5, 1936
2. (b). David Schultz \*Oct. 24, 1938
3. (b). Gerold Schultz \*Oct. 1, 1940
4. (b). Julianne Schultz \*Dec. 25, 1945





8. (a). Iola Schultz \*June 18, 1909  
 Jack Pickett \*Nov. 27, 1902—Nov. 22, 1954  
 Married—June 14, 1933  
 Killed in tractor accident  
 1. (b). John Pickett \*May 22, 1935

2. (b). James D. Pickett \*Dec. 1, 1940

3. (b). Frank Pickett \*Nov. 17, 1943

9. (a). Lloyd Schultz \*July 23, 1914  
 Vida Woods Baxter \*  
 Married—Nov. 25, 1937—Oct. 26, 1954  
 1. (b). John Schultz \*November 1, 1949



Louise Haase and Laura Brisso

2. Laura Emilie Brisso \*March 18, 1889—Nov. , 1928  
 August Heckman \*March 18, 1855  
 Married—  
 1. (a). Alfred Heckman \*July 27, 1906  
 Opal \*Sept. 3, 1905  
 Married—May 5, 1940



2. (a). Adeline Heckman \*Dec. 20, 1908  
Tom Dichner \*Jan. 17, 1905  
Married—Nov. 20, 1935
1. (b). Tommy Dischner \*Nov. 29, 1936
  
3. Ella Emilie Brisso \*Aug. 30, 1881—July 1909  
Julus Kuhl \*  
Married—
1. (a). Helen Ella Brisso \*March 30, 1903  
Hugo Hille \*July 2, 1902  
Married—Sept. 29, 1923
1. (b). Juanita Eloise Hille \*Mar. 19, 1928  
Donald Bird \*Mar. 6, 1923  
Married—Sept. 28, 1948
1. (c). William Ray Bird \*March 27, 1954
  
2. (a). Martin Kuhl \*Sept. 24, 1906  
Edna Green \*Oct. 14, 1907  
Married—Nov. 27, 1927
1. (b). Katheryn Kuhl \*April 25, 1930  
Richard Petersen  
Married—May 7, 1950
1. (c). Micheal Petersen \*May 9, 1951
  
2. (c). Sandra Petersen \*July 10, 1953
  
3. (c). Karen Petersen \*Aug. 12, 1955
  
2. (b). Gene Kuhl \*July 8, 1956
  
4. Eliza Maria Brisso \*May 26, 1882—  
Ed Mullen \*July 9, 1869—April 20, 1938  
Married—July 19, 1920
5. Albertina Brisso \*April 2, 1884—Jan. 19, 1945  
Ed Morris \*Febr. 22, 1882  
Married—
1. (a). Ethel Morris \*  
Art Haines \*  
Married—
1. (b). Rodger Haines \* —Mar. 7, 1948
  
2. (b). Donald Haines \*





3. (b). Connie Haines \*
2. (a). Buelah Morris \*Sept. 8, 1908  
Jack McGregor \*Nov. 10, 1902—May 1, 1951  
Married—
  1. (b). David Lee McGregor \*Sept. 17, 1932
  2. (b). John Lewis McGregor \*Jan. 11, 1937
- F. H. Carlson \*Jan. 25, 1907  
Married—
  3. (a). Lester Morris \*April 14, 1910  
Bernice McLaughlin \*March 24, 1916  
Married—
    1. (b). Beverly Morris \*September 26, 1930  
Elert Mattson \*  
Married—
      1. (c). Rick Mattson \*August 30, 1954
    2. (b). Mary Jean Morris \*May 22, 1936
    3. (b). Richard Morris \*Jan. 31, 1943
  4. (a). Eldon Morris \*June 30, 1914—March 23, 1944  
Died in Service at Tarawa
  5. (a). Edith Morris \*December 14, 1918  
Frank Kumerfield \*June 13, 1902  
Married—
    1. (b). Gary Kumerfield \*Oct. 8, 1941
    2. (b). Craig Kumerfield \*April 26, 1943
    3. (b). Ricky Roger \*April 20, 1948
  6. (a). Mildren Morris \*October ; 1920  
Jack Ryan  
Married—



7. (a). Martha Morris \*July 20, 1922  
       S/Sgt. Maurice L. Moore \*  
       Married—
  1. (b). Pamela Moore \*Nov. 29, 1944
  2. (b). Micheal Moore \*March 18, 1947
  3. (b). Nancy Moore \*
8. (a). Bonnie Morris \*May 5, 1925  
       Bunkers  
       Married—
  1. (b). Rita Jean Bunkers \*June 4, 1943  
       Gilbert Olson \*Febr. 6, 1908  
       Married—
  2. (b). Roxanne Olson \*Febr. 24, 1950
9. (a). LaVonne Morris \*June 3, 1929  
       Joseph Horwath \*March 18, 1925  
       Married—
  1. (b). Greg Horwath \*Nov. 16, 1951
  2. (b). Terry Horwath \*August 12, 1950
  3. (b). Cindy Horwath \*Dec. 30, 1952
6. Herman Edward Brisso \*Dec. 13, 1885  
       Anna Viergutz \*April 17, 1886  
       Married—Febr. 26, 1913
  - 1.(a). Irma Brisso \*April 12, 1918  
       (adopted)  
       Marvin Crabb \*March 6, 1912  
       Married—Dec. 3,  
       1. (b). Cheryl Crabb \*June 13, 1947
  2. (b). Micheal Crabb \*March 19, 1953





7. Louise Brisso \*May 22, 1888—Febr. , 1934

Paul Huebner \*May 7, 1884—

Married—June 4, 1906

1. (a). Vivian Leola Huebner \*Aug. 30, 1909

Wm. Woodrow Fleming \*Dec. 24, 1910

Married—August , 1953

2. (a). Juanita Charlotte Huebner \*March 29, 1914

Charles Everette Dickenson \*April 17, 1905

Married—August 8, 1939

1. (b). Douglas Donald Dickenson \*Febr. 8, 1937  
(adopted)

3. (a). Marjorie May Huebner \*Febr. 8, 1915

Arnold James Schilling \*Jan. 22, 1902—Nov. 8, 1936

Married—

1. (b). Jimmy. (deceased)

Ray Theodore Hammond \*Nov. 27, 1914

Married—

4. (a). Doris Marie Huebner \*May 19, 1917

Ike Gabbard \*Sept. 1, 1915

Married—

1. (b). Micheal David Gabbard \*Oct. 23, 1946

2. (b). Benton Paul Gabbard \*Sept. 19, 1947

3. (b). Rebecca Suzanne Gabbard \*Febr. 15, 1952

4. (b). Debra Jane Gabbard \*Dec. 27, 1954

8. Julius Brisso \*Oct. 11, 1890

Emily Gruenwald \*Oct. 10, 1892—

Married—

1. (a). Alberteen Brisso \*July

Jerry McCabe \*

Married—

2. (a). Oliver Brisso \*April 17, 1918

Margaret \*

Married—



9. Ezra Brisso \*Sept. 20, 1892  
     Marie Braeuer \*August 11, 1892  
     Married—March 14, 1920
  1. (a). Wilma Brisso \*Oct. 3, 1920  
     Gus Wagner \*May 14, 1915  
     Married—June 26, 1942
    1. (b). Larry Wagner \*Dec. 3, 1944
  2. (b). JoAnn Wagner \*Jan. 15, 1947
  3. (b). Wendy Diane Wagner \*Nov. 26, 1954
2. (a). Bernice Brisso \*April 14, 1922  
     Ted Williams \*June 24, 1915  
     Married—
  1. (b). Colette Williams \*May 4, 1953
  2. (b). Coleen Williams \*May 4, 1953
3. (a). Ted Brisso \*Dec. 12, 1923  
     Willa Leverenz \*Febr. 7, 1923  
     Married—Sept. 3, 1948
  1. (b). Elinor Brisso \*Oct. 28, 1949
  2. (b). Paul Brisso \*March 21, 1952
4. (a). Maxine Brisso \*Nov. 10, 1925
5. (a). Spencer Brisso \*May 22, 1927  
     Alice Ertzner \*June 14,  
     Married—
  1. (b). Audie David Brisso \*April 18, 1954
6. (a). Donald Brisso \*July 23, 1931





10. Herbert Brisso \*Dec. 29, 1894  
     Irene Hunker \*July 4, 1896  
     Married—Sept. 22, 1921
  1. (a). Robert August Brisso \*June 1, 1923  
     Air Force, California
  2. (a). Rodger L. Brisso \*Dec. 30, 1924  
     Bertha E. Weber \*Dec. 27, 1918—Sept. 12, 1951  
     Married—Febr. 6, 1949
    1. (b). Micheal Robert Brisso \*Dec. 11, 1950
    2. (b). Mark Hubert Brisso \*Jan. 19, 1950
- Joan Katheryn Wood \*May 5, 1929  
     Married—May 29, 1954
3. (a). Elaine Brisso \*Jan. 18, 1929  
     Robert Gordon Hall \*July 31, 1927  
     Married—Nov. 22, 1947
  1. (b). Janet Elaine Brisso \*Dec. 7, 1948
  2. (b). Timothy Robert Hall \*Dec. 12, 1950
  3. (b). Elizabeth Jane Hall \*Jan. 31, 1952
  4. (b). Jeffery Lee Hall \*Jan. 5, 1953

- VI. August Braasch \*Sept. 2, 1858—  
     Augusta Knaak \*  
     Married—June 1, 1886
  1. Marie Emilie Braasch \*Febr. 26, 1887—Oct. ,1914  
     Paul Ahlman \*Dec. 3, 1883—  
     Married—May 12, 1910
    1. (a). Celia Ahlman \*March 6, 1911  
     Delbert Seegabarth \*Febr. 1, 1912  
     Married—April 19, 1936
      1. (b). Elizabeth \*Jan. 25, 1937
      2. (b). Robert \*Febr. 26, 1939



3. (b). Joann \*Nov. 30, 1940

4. (b). Douglas \*Dec. 11, 1946

2. (a). Hilda Alman \*Nov. 16, 1912

Herman Muehleisen

Married—June --, 1936

1. (b). John Muehlisen \*July 22, 1949

3. (a). Allen Ahlman \*April 1, 1914

Irene Beeks \*Dec. 25, 1921

Married—May 2, 1948

1. (b). Kenneth \*Jan. 8, 1944

(Irene's by previous marriage)

2. (b). Jannice \*Nov. 16, 1946

(Irene's by previous marriage)

3. (b). Sarah Marie \*March 28, 1951



Mr. and Mrs. August Braasch—June 1, 1886





2. Oscar Braasch \*Nov. 1, 1888—June 11, 1947  
     Rosalie Brauer \*Nov. 28, 1888—  
         Married—Dec. 10, 1911
  1. (a). Edith Alice Braasch \*Oct. 9, 1912—June 17, 1936  
     John Rossmeir \*March 31, 1909—  
         Married—June 3, 1934
    1. (b). Gerald Lee Rossmeir \*May 16, 1936
  
3. Julius Braasch \*July 11, 1890—Jan. 17, 1919  
     Alice Otto \*Nov. 9, 1896  
         Married—Febr. 17, 1914
  1. (a). Lucille \*June 20, 1916  
         Married—
  
- 2.. (a). Dorothy Braasch \*Oct. 20, 1918  
     Harold Gruett \*July 1, 1916  
         Married—Febr. 9, 1941
  1. (b). Ann Gruett \*Jan. 1, 1942
  
  2. (b). Mark Gruett \*June 22, 1943
  
  3. (b). Micheal Gruett \*Mar. 8, 1946
  
  4. (b). Sue Gruett \*Mar. 10, 1948
  
  5. (b). Jon Gruett \*Sept. 6, 1952
  
4. Ida Braasch \*Dec. 17, 1892  
     Albert Dinkle \*Nov. 2, 1894  
         Married—Jan. 28, 1917
  1. (a). Lowell Dinkle \*Aug. 25, 1918  
     Pearl Reeg \*Sept. 28, 1917  
         Married—Sept. 25, 1939
    - 1.(b). LaVonn \*April 7, 1941
  
  2. (b). Delbert Dinkle \*May 18, 1944
  
  3. (b). Ilene Dinkle \*June 15, 1950



2. (a). Ardith Dinkle \*Febr. 23, 1922  
John Heineman \*Febr. 26, 1911  
Married—Jan. 28, 1942
1. (b). Merlin Heineman \*Oct. 31, 1942
2. (b). Eldon Heineman \*May 15, 1945
3. (b). Myron Heineman \*Jan. 20, 1948
- 4 (b). Pamala June Heineman \*Jan. 18, 1955
5. Gertrude Braasch \*May 1, 1895
6. Alfred Braasch \*May 14, 1898  
Marie Kortje \*August 23, 1900  
Married—April 17, 1922
1. (a). Norman Braasch \*July 29, 1928  
Katheryn Garrett \*Nov. 16, 1931  
Married—August 2, 1953
7. Linda Braasch \*June 5, 1901  
Karl Kortje \*Sept. 11, 1898  
Married—Jan. 15, 1928
1. (a). Phyllis Kortje \*Oct. 11, 1929  
Don Walth \*June 16, 1927  
Married—June 19, 1949
1. (b). Barbara Ann Walth \*June 20, 1954
2. (a). Don Kortje \*Nov. 25, 1930
3. (a). LaJean Kortje \*July 24, 1936
4. (a). Sharon Kortje \*Nov. 28, 1943
8. Rueben Braasch \*April 29, 1903  
Gertrude Villnow \*May 29, 1905—Mar. 10, 1933  
Married—Jan. 17, 1926
1. (a). Eunice Braasch \*April 12, 1929  
Donald Forinash \*Febr. 9, 1928  
Married—Dec. 23, 1952





1. (b). Rando Mary \*Jan. 1, 1953

VII. Johanna Braasch \*April 30, 1861—Oct. 21, 1934

John Raasch \*June 21, 1857—January 12, 1943

Married—Nov. 12, 1882

1. Clara Elise Raasch \*Sept. 1, 1883—Sept. 18, 1948

Henry Fisher \*Nov. 26, 1866—

Married—Sept. 24, 1923

2. Paul Julius Raasch \*Nov. 29, 1884—

Emma Eppler \*Dec. 15, 1889—Febr. 13, 1916

Married—Dec. 11, 1907

1. (a). Esther \*Febr. 13, 1909

2. (a). Edwin Otto Raasch \*Oct. 21, 1910

Katherine Virginia VanDeCarr \*May 31, 1914

Married—Oct. 17, 1945

1. (b). Katherine Sue \*July 28, 1950

2. (b). Cynthia Ann \*Jan. 24, 1953

3. (b). Pricilla Lou \*July 16, 1954

3. Fredericka Louis Raasch \*Dec. 18, 1885—June 11, 1955

Royal Henry Uecker \*Jan. 7, 1886

Married—Dec. 16, 1908

1. (a). Harold Royel Uecker \*June 23, 1910

Martha Schultz \*Sept. 23, 1909

Married—June 24, 1934

1. (b). Karen Faye \*Dec. 22, 1941

2. (a). Elvira Clara Uecker \*Nov. 2, 1917

Herman Harry Wagner \*May 16, 1911

Married—Aug. 26, 1935

1. (b). Phyllis Jean \*Sept. 26, 1936

Wallace Kilgore \*May 3, 1931

Married—Aug. 28, 1955

2. (b). Robert Herman \*Sept. 17, 1938—Sept. 20, 1938



3. (b). Royel Harold \*Sept. 17, 1938—Nov. 4, 1938
4. (b). Jerry Merlin \*Oct. 2, 1939
5. (b). Sharon Louise \*Oct. 28, 1941
6. (b). Elaine Jeanette \*May 24, 1944
7. (b). Irene Kay \*Dec. 3, 1949
8. (b). Dennis Dale \*Nov. 21, 1951



Wedding Party of Wallace D. Kilgore—Aug. 28, 1955 (Phyllis Wagner)

4. Dora Anna Raasch \*Febr. 25, 1887  
 Otto Eppler \*Aug. 18, 1884—Mar. 12, 1923  
 Married—Dec. 11, 1907
1. (a). Evelyn Eppler \*Oct. 24, 1908—May 11, 1942  
 Jake Haire \*Dec. 10, 1907  
 Married—Jan. 28, 1932



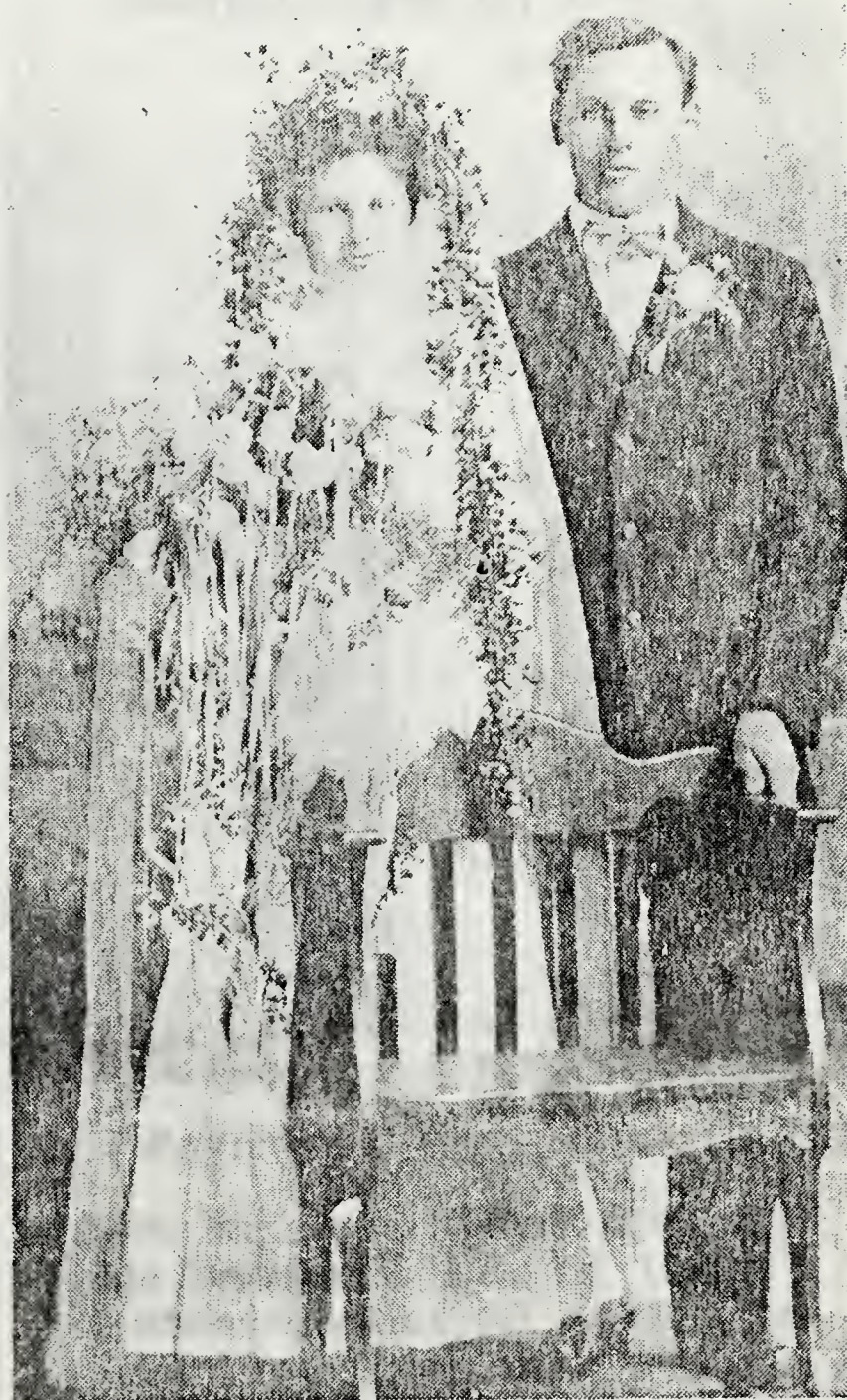




2. (a). Ruth Eppler \*May 28, 1910  
     Edgar Schleuter \*Dec. 8, 1905  
     Married—March 4, 1930
  1. (b). Boy (Stillborn) \*May 21, 1936
3. (a). Luille Eppler \*Nov. 6, 1913  
     George Bree \*Jan. 14, 1911  
     Married—Nov. 7, 1932
  1. (b). Marlin Duane \*May 16, 1933
2. (b). Verda Lee \*July 23, 1936

4. (a).

5. (a). \*Jan. 13, 1917



Mr. and Mrs. Anton Raasch—March 6, 1912





5. Anton Louis Raasch \*June 10, 1889—Jan. 12, 1946  
 Dorothea Degner \*Dec. 4, 1895  
 Married—March 6, 1912  
 1. (a). Alvin Raasch \*Nov. 26, 1912  
 Fern Uecker \*June 28, 1916  
 Married—May 18, 1940  
 1. (b). Judith Kay \*Dec. 27, 1940

2. (b). LaJean \*

2. (a). Irene Raasch \*Jan. 23, 1917

6. Louis Carl Raasch \*Dec. 14, 1890  
 Anna Werner \*Nov. 5, 1897  
 Married—April 15, 1917  
 1. (a). Raymond Raasch \*May 24, 1918  
 Janice Kuester \*Sept. 26, 1927  
 Married—June 12, 1949



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Raasch—June 12, 1949

2. (a). Delbert Raasch \*March 8, 1922  
 Nelda Derrick \*Dec. 16, 1926  
 Married—May 30, 1948  
 1. (b). Carol Ann (Adopted) \*Jan. 17, 1947





2. (b). Richard Lee      \*March 13, 1949
3. (b). Beverly Jean      \*Aug. 1, 1952
4. (b). Rodney Delbert      \*August 5, 1955
7. George Raasch      \*March 29, 1892  
Emma Werner      \*Sept. 28, 1899  
Married—Jan. 8, 1918
  1. (a). Marvin Raasch      \*May 8, 1923
8. Elmer John Raasch      \*July 7, 1893  
Elsie Haase      \*July 9, 1898  
Married—Febr. 23, 1919
  1. (a). Dwayne      \*Oct. 19, 1921  
Marion Ilene Kasper      \*March 5, 1924  
Married—Oct. 28, 1942
    1. (b). Joan Maye      \*May 3, 1943
  2. (b). Geraldine Ruth      \*October 9, 1946
  3. (b). Dwayne D.      \*Nov. 2, 1950
  4. (b). Patty June      \*May 2, 1952
2. (a). Dale B. Raasch      \*Dec. 20, 1925  
Alta Pollack      \*May 19, 19\_\_  
Married—June 24, 1951
  1. (b). Renee Ann Raasch      \*Aug. 2, 1955
3. (a). Arvid Raasch      \*Jan. 13, 1927  
Gwendolyn Kaun      \*Dec. 27, 1929  
Married—Sept. 21, 1954
9. Rudolph Otto Raasch      \*March 18, 1895  
Erna Filter      \*July 26, 1899  
Married—June 22, 1919
  1. (a). Lucille M. Raasch      \*June 1, 1920  
Elmer Borchers      \*Febr. 6, 1913  
Married—Dec. 31, 1944



1. (b). Wm. John \*Febr. 5, 1945
2. (b). Donna Rae \*July 8, 1950
3. (b). Anita Faye \*Dec. 5, 1951
2. (a).. Milton G. Raasch \*May 1, 1925  
Lois O. Froehlich \*October 4, 1925  
Married—August 18, 1947
  1. (b). Diane Kay \*June 23, 1948
  2. (b). Melva Jean (Stillborn) \*Sept. 22, 1950
  3. (b). Susan Marie \*May 2, 1952
4. (b). Luann Cheryl \*Febr. 8, 1954
5. (b). Vicki Lynn \*Nov. 2, 1955 . 2009816
10. Erhardt Herman Raasch \*Jan. 14, 1897  
Leona Haase \*June 23, 1905  
Married—May 15, 1923
  1. (a). Boy \*May 23, 1926—May 26, 1926
  2. (a). Wilma Raasch \*August 26, 1927  
Johnny Stettler \*  
Married—Nov. --, 1950 (divorced)  
Carol Westphalen \*  
Married—Oct. 5, 1953
    1. (b). Shirley Fay Westphalen \*Sept. 1, 1954
  3. (a). Dennis Dean Raasch \*April 22, 1929—April 27, 1929
11. Hubert Martin Raasch \*Febr. 6, 1900—Mar. 31, 1942  
Marie Beitz \*Febr. 10, 1906—Nov. 6, 1944  
Married—Aug. 24, 1924
  1. (a). John Martin \*Sept. 18, 1936  
(Adopted Oct. 2, 1936)
  2. (a). Robert E. \*March 13, 1938
  3. (a). Edgar Paul \*Dec. 15, 1941 —Dec. 18, 1941





4. (a). Rodger Hubert \*May 10, 1942

VIII. Marie Louise Augusta Braasch \*June 6, 1863  
Frank Wickert \*Jan. 14, 1864—Jan. 7, 1942  
Married—Febr. 16, 1890



Mrs. Marie Braasch Wickert  
Only survivor of wagon train at time book was printed

1. Dora Wickert \*Jan. 18, 1891  
John Ahlman \*Febr. 12, 1888  
Married—
  1. (a). Norma Ahlman \*July 4, 1917  
Elmer Wachter \*April 28, 1912  
Married—Jan. 21, 1945
  1. (b).
  2. (b). Delilah Wachter \*Jan. 6, 1949

- IX. Ed Braasch \*June 24, 1865—  
Augusta Wichert \*Febr. 10, 1868  
Married—Sept. 27, 1891
1. Herbert Braasch \*March 10, 1894  
Lena Wedeking \*Dec. 28, 1897  
Married—April 6, 1932
  1. (a). Virleen Braasch \*Nov. 21, 1932  
Allen Anderson \*  
Married—March 29, 1953







Herbert Braasch

1 (b). Thomas Anderson \*Sept. 23, 1953

2. Esther Braasch \*Febr. 26, 1896

Ben Kinkel \*April 19, 1894

Married—Sept. 27, 1935

3. Ruth Braasch \*Sept. 24, 1900

4. Hilda Braasch \*July 19, 1905

Wm. Bessert \*Sept. 11, 1906

Married—Febr. 14, 1928

1. (a). LaVon Bessert \*May 5, 1929

John L. Holtz \*Oct. 23, 1928

Married—Jan. 22, 1950

1. (b). Johnny Holtz \*Nov. 16, 1950





2. (a). LeRoy Bessert \*Dec. 22, 1941  
(adopted)

5. Harold Braasch \*July 29, 1907  
Frieda Hinzmann \*Jan. 19, 1905  
Wedding—Sept. 25, 1929



Herman Braasch and Alvina Wille

X. Alvina Braasch \*May 9, 1870—Dec. 8, 1953  
Obed Raasch \*August 23, 1875—Febr. 12, 1947  
Married—Febr. 2, 1899

1. Phillip A. Raasch \*Dec. 21, 1901  
Erna Oestreich \*Sept.  
Married—

1. (a). Glendora M. Raasch \*Nov. 2,  
Robert W. Nordlie \*  
Married—Nov. 19, 1949

1. (b). Deborah S. Nordlie \*Sept. 26, 1954—June 1955





2. (b). David Robert Nordlie \*Jan. 17, 1952

2. (a). Betty Lou Raasch \*Oct.  
James A. McCumber \*March 1  
Married—

1 (b). Judith Ann McCumber \*May 15, 1947

3. (a). Daniel P. Raasch \*July 20, 1928  
Patricia L. Harmer \*July 22,  
Married—June 24, 1951

1. (b). Sherri Sue Raasch \*March 31, 1952

2. (b). Sally Ann Raasch \*June 10, 1953

4. (a). Phillip O. Raasch, Jr. \*July 3, 1931  
Delores L. Haas \*July 4, 1932  
Married—Dec. 28, 1952

1. (b). Scott Frederic Raasch \*Nov. 10, 1954

2. Max L. Raasch \*Dec. 13, 1904—  
Clara R. Lederer \*Sept. 9, 1917  
Married—Febr. 24, 1944

3. Ruth A. Raasch \*March 1, 1909

4. Rachel L. Raasch \*Febr. 16, 1912  
Chester C. Misfeldt \*Nov. 18, 1907  
Married—Sept. 3, 1948





# *Pioneer History*

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## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—NORFOLK, NEBRASKA

Rev. Hugo Fritze, Pastor

In the year 1865 a number of families of St. Paul's Lutheran Church near Ixonia, Wisc. desired to live nearer to their church and Christian Day School. This desire gave them the idea to imigrate. Pastor Hecken-dorf was the pastor of that congregation at that time. He had relatives living near West Point, Nebr. This group decided to send men to inspect the land near West Point, Nebr. Thus they decided to send trustworthy men who would inspect the land and bring back a detailed report.

The trusted men chose to inspect the land were "Father" Braasch, "Father" Wagner, and Jesmer. The men immediately began their inspection trip. When they arrived at West Point, Nebr., they found that most of the land had been settled and that the remaining land would not provide sufficient land for the entire group who wished to imigrate from Wisconsin. These men then traveled over the wild prairies of Nebraska to the present Norfolk territory.

Here in the vicinity of Norfolk, they found what they were seeking. The land was rich; the water was good; sufficient wood could be found along the North Fork and Elkhorn rivers. Well-satisfied, they returned to Ixonia and brought their detailed report to those who had sent them.

Excitement reigned in Ixonia and the surrounding territory. Many questions were asked about the soil, the weather, the water and the Indians. Arrangements were made by those who wished to imigrate. Those who owned land began to sell their land as well as many other smaller items of property which could not be taken along on the journey.

What should be taken on this journey? This question caused much discussion. Horses, oxen, cattle, sheep, and household goods would have to be taken along because they would settle at some distance from a large city. This was an especially busy time for parents who would travel along this long distance with their small children.

On May 23, 1866 these pioneers decided to leave their home in Ixonia, Wisc. and to begin their long journey to their new home around Norfolk. Parting hurts. Naturally many heart-moving scenes were enacted. Parents parted from their children and children parted from their parents. Brothers and sisters parted. Friends and relatives shook hands, often for the last time in this world. Many husbands parted from their wives and children until the settlement had been established. Then they would return for their wives and children. Well-wishes could be heard from every side. This parting can better be understood when we remember that these pioneers could not simply step onto a passenger train with upholstered seats or onto a pullman and arrive in Norfolk on the following day. They had to travel in prairie schooners pulled by horses and oxen. In three columns the 53 wagons began the long trip over uncultivated land to the new and promising home in Nebraska. The





cattle had to be driven ahead of the wagons. Great difficulties were encountered when they had to cross swamps and streams without bridges. At times the caravan would stop for a day to wash clothing and bake bread. The nights were spent under the blue sky. On Sunday regular church services were held under the direction of "Father" Braasch, who was the leader of the entire caravan.

On July 12, 1866 this caravan of German settlers arrived in the vicinity of Norfolk. Here they lived for a time under the blue sky. All that their eyes could see was level land, wild animals and Indians. The goal of their journey had been reached. The settlers could now breathe easier and settle down until further arrangements could be made. The land was measured and the owner was chosen by lot. Between the 17th and 20th of July the owner could settle on his own land.

The following fathers and their families belonged to this first group of settlers: Herman Braasch, John Raasch, Fred Dederman, Fred Boche, William Boche, Carl Hille, Mr. M. Machmueller, J. M. Machmueller, Martin Raasch, William Klug, August Nenow, Carl Nenow, Louis Heckendorf, Herman Wachter, Louis Wachter, William Seifert, Christian Haase, Fred Haase, Frank Wichman, Ferdinand Wagner, Gottlieb Winter, Carl Conrad, William Rulow, August Melcher, Jacob Kaun, Gottlieb Rohrke, Julius Wichert, Carl Uecker, William Duehring, Frederick Sporn, Jacob Barnhardt, William Fisher, August Lentz, Frederick Lehman, Henry Klug, Mr. Pasewalk, Mr. Huebner, Mr. Hartman, Mr. Zutz, J. Buettow, and Ferdinand Haase, and Mr. Lucas.

This settlement formed the first Lutheran congregation in Nebraska. The "Fathers" Wagner, Raasch and Rohrke were the first elders of this new congregation and always influenced the members for good. The first services were held in a shed built along the North Fork of the Elkhorn. Branches of trees formed the roof. Hay covered the floor. In this shed the services were conducted during the remainder of the summer.

Pastor Heckendorf, who had served as the pastor of most of the settlers already in Wisconsin, arrived in October of 1866 and served the congregation until his death. Together with his congregation endured many hardships and much poverty, especially during those first few years when drought and grasshoppers caused much hardship. During the first few years of his ministry a 24x30 log church was built. This church contained no altar or pulpit. The benches were boards laid on blocks of wood. When the congregation arose, the boards would often slide off these blocks and cause much noise. This log church served as their church until 1878. Already in the year 1876 the congregation bought 12 acres of land from Pastor Heckendorf for \$120. In August of 1876 the congregation was incorporated with the State of Nebraska. In 1876 the congregation also built the first parsonage. The size of this parsonage was 16x26 with a wing 14x16 feet. Mr. Karl Uecker served as the carpenter. In April of 1878 the congregation decided to build a new church. The size of this church was 36x50. The total cost was \$1405.

The congregation numbered about 50 voting members. After a long and painful illness Pastor Heckendorf passed away in 1877.

After a vacancy of six to eight months the congregation called Candidate M. Pankow to be their pastor. He was installed on August 18, 1878 by Dr. Erst, professor and president of Northwestern College,





Watertown, Wisconsin with the assistance of Pastor E. Pankow of Wisconsin. On the same day the congregation also dedicated their new house of worship. Pastor E. Pankow delivered the sermon for the dedication.

As usual, new strength brought new life to the congregation. The congregation grew both inwardly and outwardly.

The number of school children grew to such an extent that the congregation in 1883 was faced with the joyful task of calling a regular teacher and of building a school. This 22x40 school was built on the lots which the congregation owned. The congregation also needed a teacherage. This teacherage was built in 1884. The size was 16x24. Later it was enlarged. The church was built when Pastor Pankow was installed, but it lacked an altar, a pulpit, benches and an organ. "Father" Braasch showed his liberality by giving to the congregation an altar and a pulpit. His liberality was a good example for those in the congregation who had been especially blessed by God with earthly goods. The congregation then purchased the benches. In 1884 the first pipe organ was purchased which served the congregation until about 1932.

During these years Pastor Pankow also served the congregations in Stanton, Hadar and Hoskins. In the year 1879 the congregation at Stanton called Pastor Pankow to serve them. This he did until Pastor Brandt was installed in May of 1882.

When Pastor Pankow arrived in Norfolk, services were conducted in a school house near Hadar by Pastor Esthel. Because a large number of members of St. Paul's congregation settled near Hadar, Pastor Pankow served them by conducting services in the same school house in which Pastor Esthel conducted services. These two pastors conducted services every other Sunday. Finally Pastor Pankow was called by the Missouri Synod congregation in Hadar. This congregation, together with the members of St. Paul's congregation formed what is now known as Immanuel's Lutheran church in Hadar. Trinity congregation in Hoskins was gathered and founded by Pastor Pankow with outstanding help from Mr. William Zutz.

This occurred in 1886. In April 1892 Pastor Pankow received a call to a congregation in Lake Mills, Wisc. With deep regret the members of St. Paul's congregation released him..

On the same day on which Pastor Pankow delivered his final sermon in St. Paul's congregation, they called Pastor A. F. Seigler of Two Rivers, Wisc. He accepted the call and was installed on Ascension Day in 1892 by Pastor Brandt of Stanton.

In the year 1895 St. Paul's decided to build an addition to the parsonage. It was a two-story building 22x32 feet with a building 16x16 which connected the new with the old part of the parsonage. Mr. Karl Zuelow served as head carpenter. In October of 1899 Pastor Siegler received a call to the congregation in Wauwatosa, Wisc. After a lengthy discussion the congregation decided to give Pastor Siegler a peaceful release to serve the Lord in Wauwatosa, Wisc.

On October 8, 1899 Pastor Ph. Hoelzel was called to serve St. Paul's. On November 12 he was installed by Pastor Vollbrecht. Due to illness, Pastor Hoelzel was not able to work in our midst with special joy. On August 10, 1904 Pastor Hoelzel passed away. In the year 1903 the con-







gregation decided to become a member of the newly formed Nebraska District of the Joint Synod of Wisconsin.

On May 22, 1904 Pastor John Witt was called to serve as the pastor of our congregation. He accepted the call and was installed on July 3, 1904 by Pastor Gruber. During the same year the congregation decided to extend Georgia Avenue past the south side of the property. Thus our property could be arranged along this street.

During the year 1905 the constitution of the congregation was revised and a Constitution for the school and cemetery was added. Greater interest was shown in the beautifying of the cemetery and also in making the school more efficient. Since the church, built in 1878 was too small, the congregation decided on Jan. 21, 1907 to erect a new church. Architect Stitt drew the plans and specifications for the new 13th century Gothic style church. Kellner and Worth served as contractors. The total cost of the building and furnishings was \$24,000.00. Pastor Press delivered the sermon at the laying of the cornerstone in August of 1907. Pastor Lehming, Ph. Martin and Zich brought the message of joy on the day of dedication on May 3, 1908. Since there was need for more class-room space, the old church was moved and remodeled to serve as a school. In the work of the kingdom of God there can be no standing still. As soon as the debt on the church had been paid, it was found necessary to either rebuild the old parsonage or to erect a new one. The congregation finally decided to erect a new parsonage. The total cost of the parsonage, which still serves as the parsonage, was a little over \$4000.00.

Because a second teacher had to be called in 1910, it naturally was necessary to build a second teacherage. This teacherage was completed in 1915 at a cost of \$2000.00. Braasch and R. Klug did the work.

Having experienced so many examples of God's love during the past years, the congregation decided to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the congregation on July 16, 1916. For this occasion the congregation decided to have the interior of the church redecorated at the cost of \$1110.00. Mr. Carl Reimann of Milwaukee did the work.

A survey of the first fifty years of our congregation shows the special blessings of God. During that time 1398 were baptized; 761 were confirmed; 290 marriages were performed; and 401 were buried. The congregation listed 760 souls and 559 communicants.

As we permit the events of the first fifty years to pass before our mind, we can find many reasons for rejoicing without boasting. We can see how our congregation in general was faithful in hearing the Word of God and of partaking of the Sacraments. We can see how they were concerned about the Christian education of their children. We can see how the congregation used christian discipline upon the impenitent. We can see how the congregation was concerned about the work of missions and about the upkeep of our schools of higher learning. We must not overlook the weaknesses of the congregation during the first 50 years. Repeated quarrels shook the congregation to its very foundations. If the sinful will of the congregation had been victorious, our congregation would be no more. This is said partly to lead us to repentance and partly to warn our descendents that we do not forget to thank our heavenly father for His almighty guidance. Certainly it is due only to the work





of God's powerful Word that we still exist. Let us learn from our forefathers to avoid the sins and weaknesses in Congregational life and follow their good example, which is only possible through the holy Word of God. Everything depends on our humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God. Let the words of a hymn be our closing prayer:

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me.  
Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

Rev. Hugo Fritze—Pastor

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## FIRST CHURCH IN PIERCE COUNTY

Rev. A. H. Krueger, Pastor

St. John's Lutheran church, two and one-half miles northeast of Pierce holds the distinction of being the first established church congregation in Pierce County. A colony of German settlers had come to that vicinity in 1869. Most of them were from Wisconsin, a few direct from Germany and a scattering from points south. Ox-teams and wagon was the prevailing mode of travel, while a few had horses. From some who were young lads in this caravan we have obtained the facts for this article. As far as memory recalls, the following families were members of the group that gathered for the first church service ever held in our county; Christof Marks, Micheal Manske, Christof Krueger, Wm. Otto, John Manske, Carl Klug, Wm. Schellin, Fred Koeler, Carl Kort, Wm. Streich, Henry Buckendahl, Sr., Henry Warneke, Henry Holz, and Wm. Ahlman.

The early history of St. John's church is closely interwoven with Christ Lutheran church at Norfolk. In 1870 a number of Lutherans around Norfolk and Pierce asked the late Rev. A. W. Frieze of Cumming Co. to serve them. In July 1871 Rev. J. C. Ruppert came to Norfolk as the first resident pastor.

In those days it was a long journey to and from Norfolk, and with the aid of and advice of Rev. Ruppert, the Pierce Lutherans withdrew from the Norfolk church and on Oct. 23, 1871 organized St. John's church. In the early days the Norfolk pastor continued to come to the Pierce colony.

The first service was held in the sod house of Wm. Otto. Following the organization of St. John's Church, Rev. Ruppert of Norfolk served the church until July 26, 1874. The meetings were held in the school house in Dist. 3, which was located on the hill above the location of the church.

At that time Rev. S. Estel became the first resident pastor, his territory covering 11 congregations of Pierce Co. Rev. Estel remained there until 1882. During that time a parsonage had been built on the land which the present church property and cemetery are located.





Rev. H. Bremer was the next pastor serving until illness interfered in 1894. In 1884, the first church, 26x46 feet was dedicated. Rev. Louis Bendin was the next pastor, serving until his death in 1898. Rev. A. Hofius followed, resigning to go to South Auburn April 14, 1912, Rev. H. Hilpert was called here from Wisner. The following year the present large edifice with its fine pipe organ and bell, was built and dedicated.

From the very first a school was held in connection with the church. Arrangements were made to teach English in the morning and German in the afternoon in the District School. The first teacher in District 3 was Arthur Babcock, later Co. Superintendent.

Since the parochial school was organized the following resident teachers have been in charge: Fred Meeschke, J. Troester, F. W. Eberhardt, A. Goeglein, R. Boeder. In the early days the pastor taught the school. Mr. Boeder came to the school in 1924. In September 1921, St. John's church observed its golden anniversary. At that time only four of the charter members—Henry Buckendahl, Henry Warneke, Henry Holst and Wm. Ahlman were living.

St. John's Church may rightfully be called the parent church of Immanuel's church of Hadar and Zion Lutheran in Pierce. It was largely from her membership that these two churches were formed. And now after 68 years of religious service, St. John's church stands as an eternal monument to the zeal of and high, holy purpose of our first pioneers.

After serving this church 31 years, Rev. Hilpert resigned and in 1944 Rev. Wm. Peterson took his place. Henry Kersten was the teacher. In 1946 the church celebrated its 75th anniversary. In December 17, 1950 Rev. A. H. Krueger came to serve our church. Mr. Gerhardt Harms is the teacher. He came in August, 1952.

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## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, Hadar, Pierce Co., Nebr.

By Rev. H. Spaude. 1955.

In the year 1875 a number of Lutheran Christians desired to found their own church home, in and around Hadar. According to the church record here are some of the familiar names and families who were affiliated with the infant congregation: Frank Wichman; August Oestreich; August Braasch; Fred Braasch; Herman Braasch; John Raasch; Edward Eppler; Carl Schwichtenberg; Carl Grochow; Fred Oestreich; Carl Lichtenberg; Herman Wichman; Fritz Degner; John Krueger; Ferdinand Conrad; Wm. Raabe, Sr.; Gottlieb Rohrke; David Rohrke; Carl Rohrke; Herman Rohrke; Fred Lehman; Fred Paul; John Pufahl; John Faubel; Robert Leu; Carl Gehm; Ferdinand Leu; Aug. Filter; Frank Peter. If there are others to be counted with this list, we hope these can be inserted. The first pastor to serve was Rev. L. Estel. In the year 1883 the Hadar church was officially organized and incorporated. The old church soon became too small, so in 1902 on Oct. 5th, it was decided to build a new church home. The entire church building, including interior furnishings, the two bells; was erected at a cost of \$9500.00. Immanuel Lutheran church is now 72 years in existence. In 1908 the 25th anniversary and in 1933 the 50th anniversary of the congregation was celebrated. God







willing, the Hadar congregation will commemorate the 75th anniversary in the year 1958.

During the life-span of Immanuel church the following pastors served the congregation: 1875-Rev. L. Estel; 1883-Rev. E. Pankow; 1888-Rev. F. Koch; who was also the first resident pastor; 1892-Rev. Stephen; 1895-Rev. Kluge; 1901-Rev. Theo Braeuer; 1921-Rev. George Tiefel; 1937-Rev. L. Tessmer; 1943-Rev. H. Spaude, the present pastor.

The first resident teachers were Hugo Frey in 1905. In 1906 a new pipe organ was installed. In 1908 teacher G. Hofius was called. He served until 1943. Since then the following teachers have been engaged: Kenneth Born; Lorraine Weishahn; Lola Greve; Janice Kuester; Patsy Garbrecht; W. Bartsch; and present teacher: Irma Kohlstedt.

The Immanuel church has since its inception made many improvements, such as church decorated; school renovation, completely furnished school basement; modernization of parsonage; Also during the life of the congregation the various anniversaries of pastors and teachers were duly observed.

The present membership of the congregation numbers 435 souls; 325 communicants; 98 voting members. A flourishing Christian school; a graded Sunday school with an enrollment of 94; an active Ladies Aid Society; and a fine young peoples Society. All in all, Immanuel Lutheran owes much of its progress to the pioneers of the church. They brought many sacrifices to found and to keep Immanuel church what it is today—one of the leading congregations in the community.

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## FIRST CEMETERY IN PIERCE COUNTY WAS NEAR HADAR

From the records in the office of the county clerk, we find that a plot of ground of two acres located about a mile and one half north-east of Hadar was sold to Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran church organization by Gottfried Koehl for \$10. The deed was filed on Febr. 1, 1879, making it the first cemetery in Pierce County.

From some of the nearby Hadar residents we are told that one of the first burials in the cemetery was an Eppler boy, who was drowned in the river near the school house in District No. 1 over 75 years ago.

It has been many years since any burials in this pioneer cemetery have been made.

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## THE SOD HOUSE

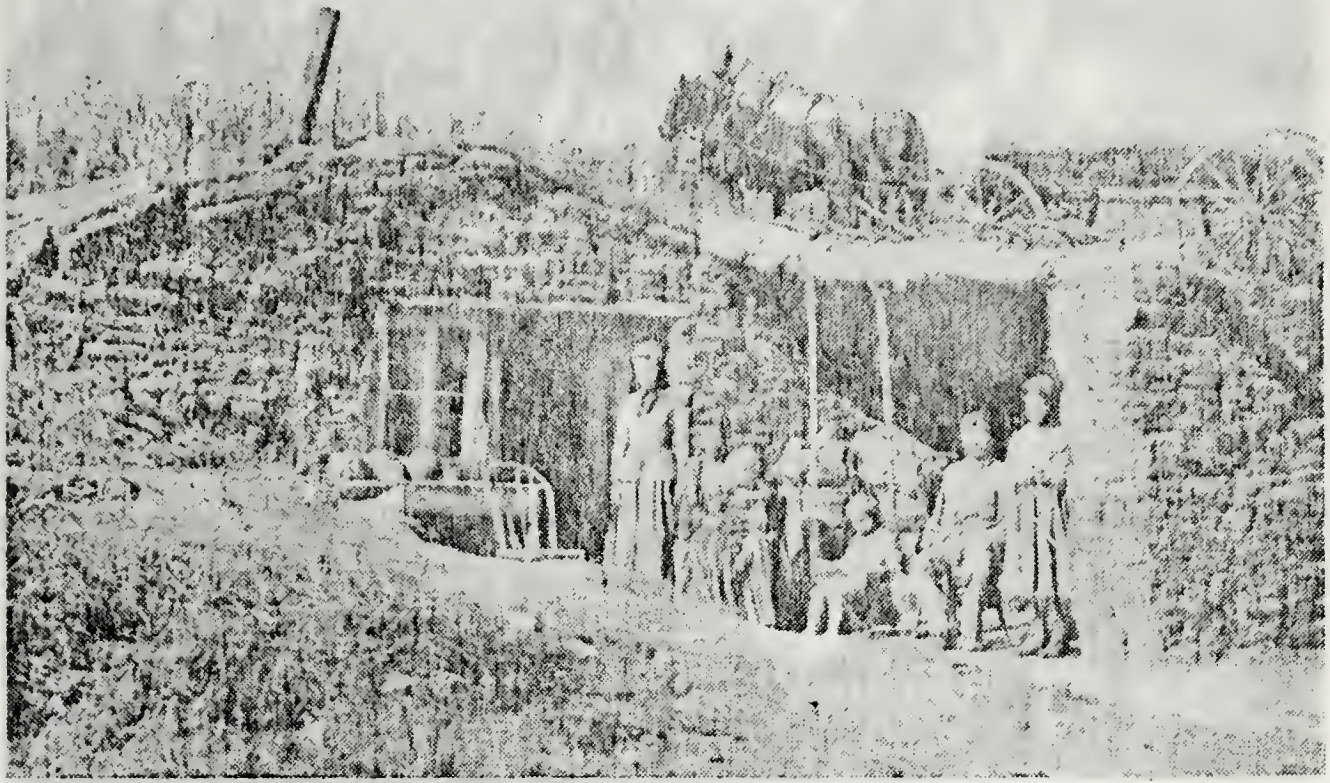
Out on the prairies, away from the streams which provided logs and timber for his cabins, the settler turned to the materials furnished by his environment to build his home. Like the Indian who had constructed lodges of earth, the pioneer found his answer in the native soil. Bricks of sod, which some jokingly called "Nebraska marble," made a substantial and even comfortable home.

When the settler first arrived to stake his claim, his primary concern was providing some kind of shelter for his family. The dugout was the most satisfactory solution to this problem. A ravine or hill was selected,





preferably facing south away from the wind. The excavation was simply covered over with a roofing of logs, brush, and prairie sod. The front of the dugout was walled with bricks made of sod, into which a door and window were cut. Often the only sign of habitation was a stove pipe sticking up over the hill. In the darkness wagons sometimes rumbled over the dugout, knocking dirt into the room below or even crashing through the ceiling. Such unexpected intrusions were never welcomed by the residents of the home.



Sod House

When the family was able, they built a more substantial building. About half an acre of ground was plowed with a "grasshopper" plow into strips 12 to 14 inches wide and four inches thick. These were cut into lengths of about three feet. Laying the sod like bricks, the builder placed them lengthwise, making a wall two feet in depth. With every few layers the process was reversed and the bricks were laid crosswise to bind the walls and to make them solid. All sod was laid with the grass down. When the desired height was reached, huge cedar ridge logs 30 to 40 feet long and 18 to 24 inches through were placed on the sod gables. Cedar poles acted as rafters and fine willow brush was laid on top. Finally the sod was added. These roofs leaked copiously after a rain. Strategically placed pans caught the water, but everything usually had to be dried when the sun shone once more. The more expensive soddies were made with a framed roof over a ridge peak in the middle, using 2 by 4 dimension stuff for rafters set on a 2 by 6 plate on the wall. Sheeting was nailed on the rafters and tar paper spread over the sheeting boards. This was again covered with sods somewhat thinner than the sods used on the side walls. These were laid smoothly and the cracks filled with fine clay dirt. A few homes had board roofs, but most of the settlers could not afford such a luxury. The area around the windows and doors was usually whitewashed in an attempt to control the dirt which was constantly blowing into the rooms. Bright plants growing in the tin cans set in the windows added a gay festive touch to the otherwise drab appearance.









Mock Wedding of Braasch Family in Iowa



Reunion—1953





THE SULLIVANS



THE SULLIVANS





Family Reunion—1929







The interior walls of the soddie were plastered with clay, white-washed, or papered with newspapers. Papered walls were a sign of prosperity. Since the dirt walls did not present a surface for papering, flour or grain sacks had to be pegged to the wall. Newspapers that had been either saved or purchased in town were then applied with a paste made of flour and water. A sheet was sometimes hung over the ceiling to prevent dirt from sifting through the rooms. Although the floors in the majority of the early homes were earthen, in some instances split logs or "puncheon" were used. A few could afford the luxury of wide, rough planks, and these were planed and polished with the scrubbing brush to a hard finish. Boards made of cottonwood soon warped, giving a wavy surface to the floor. As cold weather approached the boards shrank and huge gaps appeared. The more fortunate tacked down an old carpet across the dirt floor. Rooms were divided by a rag carpet or quilt. Windows were closed by buffalo robes or blankets, when the family could not afford glass. Bright calico or lace curtains made the room look more homelike.

The first settlers met the fuel problem by burning buffalo or cow chips, called by the users "prairie coal." When these became scarce any substitute was used. Woody weeds, such as sunflowers, were advertised in 1871, claiming that one acre would produce 12 cords and furnish enough fuel for the winter. The fuel most universally used was heavy slough grass which was twisted into stovewood lengths known as "cats". Several types of stoves for burning hay were invented and placed on the market. In the museum there is an example of the old "hay burners". It used two cylinders which were filled with weeds, hay or straw and fitted into place under the oven, where two openings went directly into the firebox. As the hay burned, a spring pressed into the firebox. Spare magazines were kept filled to be used. This type was unsatisfactory as it required constant attention and there was great fire hazard when new "cats" were inserted. At times during the nineties, it was cheaper to burn the corn as fuel than to sell it at the low market prices. The warm glow of the stove penetrated throughout the well insulated home, and by its flickering light the children read or played with their toys.

Most families were too poor to light their homes during the evening. When darkness fell, the family retired. Grease lamps, which burned animal fat, and candles, which the women molded, provided a feeble light. The introduction of the kerosene lamp was one of the first improvements to their living, although it meant additional work for the housewife, who had to clean the glass shades each morning.

Furniture was meager, unless the settler brought it with him from the East. A table, a trunk, a cupboard made of boxes, a bedstead, a flour barrel and a stove comprised the furnishings. Occasionally there was a fancy clock, although time had little meaning on the prairies. Every home had at least one rocker in which the weary mother might rest while her busy hands knit the endless supply of scarves, stockings and mittens for the family. Stools made by splitting a dry log and hewing and planing the rough edges were a frequent substitute for chairs. In one corner of the room stood a wash stand with a gleaming brass wash pan on top. Besides the pan was a large cake of homemade soap, and above it hung the community towel. During the first years very few bedsteads were brought from the former homes of the settlers. Spring beds were unknown in those





days, but rope beds were common. Rope was laced across the sideboards to make crude springs, upon which a mattress filled with corn husks or straw was laid. A crude bunk was constructed also of forked poles and slats driven into the sod walls. Gay patchwork quilts and woven coverlets covered the beds. In the winter when it was extremely cold, feather beds and heavy buffalo robes were added. The more fortunate pioneers, who had some knowledge of carpentry were able to construct pieces of furniture for their homes from odd bits of lumber. One large cabinet in the museum's collection was made from a walnut tree that grew near Lincoln in 1869. Fragments of the faded wallpaper which once lined the shelves are visible today. Clothing was stored in the drawers of chests or hung on the walls by pegs. Linens were carefully laid away in trunk.

Occasionally a painting or family portrait brought from the East in its elaborate frame or a wreath made from seeds, beads, yarn or locks of hair from each member of the family added a touch of "tone" or culture to the dirt walls. Sometimes a woman had been able to persuade her husband to transport an organ or melodeon along with their household goods from their former home. The possession of such an instrument brought neighbors to the home from the surrounding country side on Sunday for simple services. The library was seldom very extensive. A few books, an old picture album, an almanac, and the bible made up its contents.

Warm in the winter and cool in the summer, a soddie provided adequate, though not luxurious, shelter for the settler and his family. The women, particularly, protested against the continual war with dirt and bugs. Nothing seemed clean! The little structures were able to defy the high Nebraska winds and storms for an average life of six or seven years. After that time, the family was usually in a better position financially and able to move into a frame structure. Although the end of the era of living in such homes came about 1900, sod houses still exist and the occupied in some parts of Nebraska.

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## WILD LIFE ON THE PLAINS

Buffalo as wild herds, of course, had vanished from the plains by 1880 . . . Where we were, antelope could be seen occasionally in small groups.

A bunch of seven were seen feeding from time to time in the canyon east of Uncle Allen's place. He pointed them out to me once when we were gathering "bones for market."

Two kinds of jackrabbits were plentiful: known as blacktail and whitetail jacks, and some cottontails or bush rabbits. The whitetail jack was very large when full grown and not as speedy as the blacktail. They were not as numerous as blacktail and perhaps had fallen prey easier to coyotes and dogs.

I remember seeing a neighbor bring in a whitetail jack one time. Its hind legs were tied to the saddle horn and front legs hung below the horses knees—almost to the ground. Probably weighed 15 pounds.

The other animals, not used for food, were badger, prairie dog, skunk, and civet cat, striped ground squirrels (millions of them), gophers and







moles. Along streams coon and bob cats were hunted. The badger was an interesting animal. Traveling on his short legs, he could easily be overtaken; but when he came to dig-himself-in he could disappear in a twinkling. One day on the prairie, mounted on my pony, I saw a badger and gave chase.

### Fast Digger

When he saw that he was being overtaken, and not being near his den he started digging, perhaps using a gopher hole for a start. By the time I rode up and dismounted, he was out of sight, with dirt still spurt-ing out of the hole. And the badger is a tough "hombre", and so loose in tough hide that he can turn in it when grabbed by a dog and use long claws to advantage.

Prairie hen and grouse were plentiful. (While the dictionary defines prairie chicken as "a spotted grouse," we knew the smooth-legged bird as "prairie chicken," while the "grouse" was darker colored bird with long feathers on its legs below the knee.) In the spring at mating time, early in the morning after daylight, we used to enjoy hearing the male bird drumming or booming.

From all around came booming, exhilarating to a youngster, making him feel like crowing himself for gladness at being alive on a bright and lovely spring morning. In the fall of the year the flocks of prairie hen and "bob-white" quail would assemble in large groups to feed and travel in masses.

I have seen flocks of prairie chickens fly over, numbering 50 to 75, going to a field to feed. They played heck with a ranchers' corn and small grain. One fall we were late in getting our corn shucked out; a heavy snow caught us with a few acres not picked. A good crop too that year because of deep snow all winter we could not get into the field to finish harvesting till late February. By that time, because of inroads made by the rabbits, prairie hens and geese, there was not much corn left. However, we had some compensation, that field was a good place to hunt that winter.

Great flocks of Canada Honkers, brants, cranes and sometimes a flock of white swans came that way. A neighbor boy once shot a large swan, bringing it down with a broken wing, and when he ran and grabbed it, the swan nearly broke his arm thrashing him with its good wing. Along the river and ponds were seen large droves of geese, several kinds of ducks, long-billed snipe and plover.

No game—animals, birds or fish—was then protected by national or state laws, so the season was all the year round. Much wild game was shipped to cities, so any time one had a surplus, he could sell it in town at meat markets. With my single gun I got plenty of rabbits, but wild fowl was not easy to sneak up on.

### Stalking Geese

Once a large flock of geese came down in a stubble field on a ridge a half mile away. A field of cornstalks between the canyon and stubble afforded some screen, so I tried crawling up on them. Patches of snow and mud in the cornstalks soaked me plenty, and just as I was almost in range, someone came riding up the other side of the ridge—and away went my geese. I blazed away as they rose up but distance was too great to get results.





One evening in early fall I was out for a prairie hen, but had no luck. As I headed for home, the sun was almost down as I walked through some stubble, when a prairie hen flushed and flew directly into the low sun. I could not see the bird, but pulled up and shot toward the sun. Immediately a great cloud of feathers, magnified by the sun's rays, filled the air. I thought, "Well, I shot that bird all to pieces; it won't be much good".

When I got to the bird and picked it up I found only a scratch along its back, from tail to head. Two No. 4 shot had hit and raked the bird "from stern to bow." One shot went on past the head and could have done no harm; but one shot entered the brain and brought it down. Result—nice fat bird, no shot to pick out.——

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## WILD FLOWERS AND FRUIT

Memory sweeps back over the flower bedecked prairie as it is remembered in the early "Eighties."

I fear man never again will behold such loveliness as the prairies presented in spring and early summer. For no matter if drought and hot winds hit later, the snow of the winter had usually stored moisture enough for Mother Nature to weave and spread her Magic Carpet, resplendent with wild flowers and waving greenness.

Some of the vegetation on the Nebraska prairie was akin to that found in the semi-arid or desert lands of Arizona and New Mexico, such as a variety of cacti and the yucca (local name, soap plant) as well as sagebrush, loco-weed, grease wood and others. And some years on the prairies, desert conditions prevailed for reason of lack of rain. Yet the years when moisture was abundant, the climate and conditions were far from desert-like. The good years, sometimes several in succession when the proper zodiac cycle was reached, produced an abundance of grass and other vegetation in its wild state, and equally prolific crops after man took possession of the soil.

Besides the bloom of the cacti and yucca, which seemed to completely cover certain hill sides, there was lupine, several varieties of daisies, snapdragons, wild roses, "cat-ears", standing morning glory," and a dozen or two others I cannot now name. Then in the fall golden rods and flaming sumac added color to the landscape. Not to forget the sunflower, resinwood, cocklebur and many other "pests."

But one of the most fragrant flowers was the "sensitive rose". (It must have a scientific name.) This trailing vine grew in abundance, usually in large patches on the "cat steps" or eroded sloping ridges just above the canyon rims. Each wiry stem radiated out from a center crown, laying flat on the ground forming a circle five to seven feet in diameter. Sharp spines along the tough vines made them something to be avoided when youngsters ran through the patch bare-footed. The long narrow leaves on the plant were sensitive to any touch, hence the name, "sensitive rose," but opening up again if unmolested for a few minutes.

When the plant was in full bloom in June and July, it was a mass of pink and purple "roses", the shape and size of a dandelion plume of





seeddown, but instead of white the color was deep rose or pink, each pink hair-like spine tipped with a dot of pure gold. The flower evidently was rich with nectar and summer air around was filled with its delicate perfume.

Another "honey plant" was the wild pea which covered the slopes, and with abundance of purple bloom similiar to sweet pea bloom. This was worked on constantly by the bumble bee. I believe it is likely classed as vetch or "wild vetch" now, but then we never knew of vetchs. We thought it to be peas, so gathered the pods when young for food, but even before the little peas in the tiny pods became ripe they would not soften when cooked, but the acres of purple bloom were beautiful.

Another little plant on the prairie which we could and did eat was the wild onion which we children gathered and relished. They were tiny in size, about like a garden chive but did not multiply in clumps as the chive does. One memory of the wild onion stands out very distinctly. We liked the little onion "as is" very well, but when it tainted the milk and butter it was not favored, as when our milking cows browsed the onion tops when feeding on the succulent green buffalo grass where the onions thrived.

Our only wild fruit in that district was wild plum and chokecherry, and some wild grapes along the streams. The fragrance of the plum and cherry bloom in early spring was WONDERFUL, that is the best word I know for it. In the sweet prairie air the fragrance of the blossoms was noticeable for a long distance.

And we prized the fruit highly too, in a land where there was no other fruit. Ah! a crusty piece of Mother's new-baked bread spread with some of that delicious wild plum butter! MMMMM! Mother also made delcious watermelon preserves (when sugar was obtainable) and grand muskmelon butter and ripe tomatoe preserves. But much of the time our only sweetening consisted of sorghum molasses—homemade. And in some real hard years we children had to be satisfied with a slab of corn-bread and sorghum for a "piece" between meals. Fortunately we usually had plenty of milk and butter. However, drought years we were hard put to obtain cow feed.

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## FUEL FOR EARLY SETTLERS

The first comers to the prairie found plenty of "buffalo chips" to use as fuel. Great herds of bison had roamed those plains for a thousand years, their offal drying in the sun remained as firm and hard disks for years, until from effects of summer rains and winter snows, became disintegrated and returned to the soil.

But the settlers found plenty at first. I remember helping gather a wagon load, dumping it beside the sod house for fuel. Later on some cow chips were used, as the corn crops were raised and gathered, corn cobs became a standby; also on occasion slough grass or course hay was twisted in tight rolls and used as fuel.

And there came a time one year (or more) when corn was plentiful and cheap — when a load of corn was hauled to town it would bring back not more than couple bushels of coal — we used corn for fuel.







(Grandmother Haarlan said someday the country would pay for that sin.) In our sod house, easy to keep warm, we used no other heat than our small cook stove.



Pioneer Home

I remember that winter father bought the trees, or cut them on shares, of a man down the river about two miles from our place. He saved even the small limbs and brush in our yard—piled helter-skelter and hard to separate when it was my duty to chop up an armload in stove-length for the house.

And I fear poor little mother had to go to that brush pile herself many times to get fuel to cook dinner with. I remember our neighbors used to call that brush heap “Haarlans crow’s nest.” The wood used along with other fuel and so supplied our stove for a year or so.

Our little cook stove had one broken leg, I recollect, and one time we children playing around it, knocked that broken leg out; causing the stove to tumble onto the floor, spilling the lids off, fire and ashes on the floor. The stove pipe came down in the midst a shower of soot, so it was no wonder that when a stove salesman came by a few years later, he found little sales resistance and sold father a high priced kitchen range; here is the story—

#### Little Mother’s Range

The “Home Comfort” Wrought-Iron Range Company (St. Louis, Missouri) sent a salesman out through the country. He had a demonstration range in a light wagon. He came to our place one afternoon and waited till father came in from work. They talked and talked, but the price was the drawback—\$85, I believe, and that was an awful lot of money in those times. Well, night came on and the salesman asked for lodging for himself and team for the night.

How well do I remember his talk as we sat around after supper. In his travels he had been in the Willamette Valley in Oregon. He said it was the garden-spot of the world, with all kinds of fruit; apples, pears, prunes, cherries; berries of several kinds cultivated and growing wild,





everywhere (how right he was); and most of this fruit was going to waste for the want of someone to gather and use it.

Imagine us poor fruit-starved Nebraskaites taking all this in, our mouths open in amazement. Also he told about the wild game and fish, which could be had in abundance by anyone who cared to visit the streams and foot hills. He told of staying with a family one night—as he was staying with us this night—and they set before him a heaping platter of the most delicious fowl he had ever eaten—China pheasant.

I remember his story so well—all through the years after; so, “when in the course of human events” it became my privilege and good fortune with my family to be headed toward the famed Willamette Valley, there was joy of hope and anticipation. So we came to Oregon—to the Willamette Valley of story and song, which became our home for forty years.

But to get back to the Home Comfort range; the next morning the salesman insisted on demonstrating the ruggedness and handiness of the wonderful all-around range: Six-holes had this range; he let down the oven door and invited father to stand on it, even jump up and down on it—so rugged, so strong. He even hammered the lids together—malleable iron—absolutely indestructable was that kitchen utility, and always a supply of hot water in the ample reservoir.

Truly, little Mother deserved a kitchen range like that if anyone ever did; and so, it was arranged—easy payments, etc. In due time, the new stove came to Arapahoe by freight, and brought it out to our homestead. How well I remember it. Quite bulky and heavy to move but it went with the family to Arapahoe, to Republican City, and then to Beatrice. It had really proven a Home Comfort.

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## THE PRAIRIE WINDS

The winds blow cold and the winds blow hot on the wide and open plains. The air currents seem to be always active and shifting throughout the year. Two seasons, spring and fall months, when they reached continued gale force.

The late Ernie Pyle once wrote—“I don’t know whether you know that long, sad wind that blows so steadily across the thousands of mid-west flatlands in the summer-time. If you don’t, it will be hard for you to understand the feeling I have about it. Even if you do know it, you may not understand.”

“To me that summer wind in the midwest is one of the most melancholy things in all life. It come from so far and blows so gently and yet so relentlessly; it rustles the leaves and the branches of the cottonwood trees in a sort of symphony of sadness, and it doesn’t pass on and leave them still. It just keeps on coming, like the infinite flow of Old Man River. You could—and you do—wear out your lifetime on the dusty plains with that wind of futility blowing in your face.

And when you are worn out and gone, the wind—still saying nothing, still so gentle and sad and timeless—is still blowing across the prairies, and will blow in the faces of the little men who follow you, forever.”

—End of quote.





Yes, Ernie's words describe the gentle winds of the plains all right, but he might have warned that those same gentle winds in time grew up to be a rough-and-ready ruffian of a gale—so strong and relentless for days—for weeks. March winds from the south or southwest, day and night—three, four, five days—maybe seven days, bringing dust, tumbleweeds, cornstalks—everything not nailed down. Then, over night maybe, shifting to a completely opposite direction.

And then, for another week the gale from the cold north or northeast—perhaps temperature dropping 20 to 30 degrees, and bringing all that dust and tumbling tumbleweeds back again. I have seen gales so strong, (as if one could see the wind), a team of horses could with difficulty make progress against it. Almost impossible for a person to walk against it; not always with the same velocity or pressure, but gusty. Might be a cloudless sky but with a dusty haze. The wind might lessen in violence at sundown, but likely, as the sun rose on the morrow, to be at it harder than ever.

But in those days in the 1880's, with much of the prairies land still unbroken, we did not experience dust storms; they came years later when the greed of man turned over every available acre of grassland to raise more wheat. Then the vast wheatlands were plowed in the fall to plant more wheat; the loose and unprotected soil was left to blow in the fall and spring gales. However, in our day a drought year, we were likely to have midsummer hot winds from south or southwest.

Originating in the semi-arid or desert lands far to the south or southwest of us, the heat waves swept up through Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and on into the Dakotas. Waving fields of wheat, perhaps only in the milkstage but green and promising, might in a couple of days be burned white—just dried out rustling stems, the kernels shriveled to half or one-third size.

One time, I remember distinctly, we were having hot drying weather, but we had a field of oats that had been planted early and had made good growth, coming on to maturity with prospects of a fair yield. As we started that morning to harvest the oats and drove past the field of our corn, although the wind was hot, the corn stood up straight and green, and I believed it would come through and make some corn. But that evening as we came home the corn leaves hung withered and drooping. The hot wind continued and by the next afternoon that field of corn was lifeless, the white scalded leaves turning to brittleness.

But in spite of those occasionally hot prairie winds, I still remember the gentle fanning breezes, waving the luxuriant prairie grass and fields of rippling grain; breezes so refreshing and pure, full of ozone which seemed to impart an exhilarating quality to the lungs; intoxication to your bloodstream—(Be quiet, memory! Don't confuse the exhilaration of youth with facts!—"No", memory persists, "it was fact and youth.")

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## PRAIRIE FIRES

We experienced two very bad fires but saved our buildings and stock. About the second year we were in the sod house, father was away, cutting broom corn, I believe.







His summer hay crop was stacked about a hundred yards south of the house. We noticed great clouds of smoke to the south shortly after noon. Mother knew a big fire was coming up from down in Kansas. As the fire advanced, the sun was blotted out, completely obscured by the dense smoke clouds. As darkness fell we could see the flames reflected on the smoke clouds. We had a fire-guard strip around the house and stacks, but a spark might carry across into the hay. Mother was afraid that the hay should catch, the south wind might blow the burning hay onto our house.

She got the washtub into the house and filled it with water. Her thought was to soak bed quilts in water and fight the fire if window-frames or door caught fire. Our sod house was comparatively secure otherwise. But the fire passed on east of us as fire fighters to the south controlled the blaze.

On another day, we knew a great fire was ranging to the south as the smoky haze darkened the sky. Father was home and widened the fire-guard some more so that it was about 300 feet wide, but with a high wind, bunches of grass and tumbleweeds can jump a wide strip.

The fire came on fiercely, traveling many miles an hour. When it reached the patches of blue stem grass in the draws, the flames and black smoke whirled upwards with a swirl like a tornado. With the strong upward drafts of hot air, it had a roar like a tornado, too . . .

Rabbits ran frantically before the fire, no doubt many of them finally overcome. But where the prairie was only buffalo-grass, being so short, the flames could not reach out so fast and burned low to the ground; here, we could see the rabbits run along in front of these low spots, finally jumping over onto the burned-over ground and escaping back of the flames.

When a fire came in the spring after wild things had nested, the mortality among the young was very high. I have found many jack-rabbit nests with 8 to 10 baby rabbits roasted. The very young rabbits just out of the nests would also perish.

I have seen prairie hen nests, with 15 to 20 eggs roasted. But the young develop so fast, if a day or two out of their nests they were able to fly to safety. And many, many, ground birds' nests, with either eggs or young birds in were seen after a fire had passed. But I never found any other animal's life destroyed by fire, such as ground squirrels, skunks, prairie dogs, badgers or coyotes, of course; they could hole up.

It happened at the time of this spring fire, that our two cows and two yearlings had been turned out up the canyon to range for early spring grass. For some reason, which I cannot remember now, the cattle were not rounded up and brought in when we saw the fire was coming. But they were out, and I believe father worried for fear they may have been caught. But I remember so well, about an hour after the fire had passed, here came the cattle stringing in looking wide-eyed but unharmed.

Where they were and how they escaped even being singed, we shall never know, but they surely looked out for themselves. This fire proved to be the worst we had ever seen. Several ranchers lost their hay and buildings. It was reported that this fire had even jumped the Republican river at one place.





## PLANTING THE SOD

The new prairie land turned over was not easy to plant. The new sod was a mass of grass roots and very tough. A really good job of "breaking sod" would leave the continuous ribbons of sod lying down flat, with a ridge where each turn lapped slightly on the one before.

A poor job of "breaking" would be rough with many humps. The usual crop for the new sod was corn; but beans, squash, pumpkins and melons were sometimes planted. The crops were put in with a sharp spade making the cuts for each hill, or with a hand planter set to drop the required number of seeds in each hill.

In planting with the spade, a slanting cut would be opened, the cut spread by a deft twist of the blade and the seed dropped in; withdraw spade and step heavily on the "lip" to seal seed in. Even at that the pesky stripped ground squirrel might follow the planter, dig the seed out and carry it home to his storehouse. They were smart and seemed to know when one was placing that nice food in the ground for their convenience.

The little thieves became expert in extracting for their own use. But even if squirrels did not take the seed, unless there was plenty of rain at the right time you might reap very little or none at all. The undecomposed grass cushion underneath the sod allowed it to dry out rapidly. However, I have seen fair sod-corn raised; even very good squash and pumpkins.

But there were really too many "ifs" entering into the project of planting raw sod; the venture was a gamble. But the second year plowing, called "back setting", put the new ground in better condition for planting. After the sod had lain for a year or through a winter, the grass had dried and could be chopped up and mixed with the soil. A crop planted then could get benefit of sub-soil moisture.

The backsetting was accomplished by using a dick-harrow or disc as it was called; the sharp, revolving discs doing the work if provided with enough weight for penetration. However, the single or one-way discs then used, even when weighted with a couple hundred pounds, could not penetrate the tough sod very deeply, so many trips must be made, first one way, then crossways.

Many, many dusty hours have I ridden the bucking outfit behind a bronco team; bracing my legs rigidly to keep from pitching off the seat. (What a modern tractor-drawn heavy two-way disc could have done to the back setting job.)

After the discing, the ground was worked down with a spike tooth harrow. If early enough in the spring, wheat, oats or other small grain was "broadcast" by hand and harrowed in. If later, corn and other row crops were planted. Another profitable crop on new land was broom corn, which was always in demand and provided a cash crop.

The price of baled broom corn "brush" usually ranged above other farm crops. That was the day of low prices for farm products; sometimes it was more economical to burn ear corn than to sell it and buy coal.

From the second year on, the virgin soil lacking nothing in plant food, marvelous crops were raised—if sufficient moisture, of course. For the decade we farmed the homestead, no thought was given to fertilizer; mainly just to be rid of it, barnyard accumulation was spread on the





fields. Only virgin sod with closely woven grass roots which had lain undisturbed for a thousand years, was suitable to build a sodhouse. I doubt if sod suitable for building can be found in Nebraska today.

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## GRASSHOPPERS AND INSECTS

The year of 1874 was called the Grasshopper Year. Every living thing, vegetation, even all leaves and twigs on trees along the streams; the bark was stripped from newer growth on wild plum and chokecherry.

Everything was devoured by the destructive insects over hundreds of square miles. There must have been grasshopper years before that, and I remember seeing swarms of hoppers flying and on the ground during my boyhood years on the plains, but nothing to equal the grasshopper year of 1874.

There were several kinds of grasshoppers, but the really destructive kind is the migrating hopper; they had their "blitz-krieg" fleets-of-the-air well organized ages before the Germans put theirs into practice. Those flying hordes will strike many, many miles from where they hatched and emerged from the ground. I have looked toward the sun to see millions of glistening wings on the move, but none to be seen on the ground. Other times I have seen them, not flying but getting good licks in our garden and fields, either hatched locally or flying from a distance.

Other years I have seen late in the spring, numerous holes about the size of a lead pencil where the brood of hoppers had emerged from the prairie sod; perhaps to remain and feed on growing stuff; but just as often, by some mysterious signal unknown to man, the brood, which hatches altogether in a few days or a week, will rise in the air and be on the way; they travel with considerable speed to lands many miles away to begin a raid of destruction. (I suspect that this migratory insect is first cousin to the "locust" mentioned in the Bible.)

Not only is the hopper destructive of green vegetation, but will perforate cotton, linen, or silk clothing. He is fitted with sharp, powerful nippers, and many a housewife has had the wash put out to dry, literally perforated with the mischievous nibbling.

One time I had a new plaid jumper, wearing it to the field as I went to shock oats. I laid the jumper off on a shock of oats. In the evening I picked the jumper up off the shock, and to my dismay found a half-dozen holes raggedly gnawed by the hoppers.

Another destructive insect, but which never raided Nebraska to my knowledge, was the so-called Mormon cricket. This insect originates on the slopes of the Rocky Mountains, making its raids on the surrounding plains.

Among the wingless grasshoppers found on the plains was the mammoth one we called the buffalo hopper. A huge fellow with a more or less attractive green color scheme; his body long and plump. He might have been very destructive to crops with his vigorous appetite had he come in numbers. Being unable to escape by flying, he became easy prey to bug hunting prairie fowl and to domestic chickens and turkeys. I also know he was a favorite dish to the skunk. I remember him princi-







pally as making good fish bait, but many times I have chased the winged kind slapping them down to be used to entice a bullhead to bite my hook.

Then there was the potato bugs; the big, long, fat black and gray ones. The big black fellows, an inch or more in length that could "eat like a horse"; the gray ones almost as large but gray in color, were just as ravenous and were likely a younger generation of the blacks. The fact that the gray ones were usually more numerous than the black might indicate that they were the young brood.

And how all of them could run. As we moved down rows of potatoes seeking them, they could see us coming and move across the patch ahead of us, sometimes taking wing and leaving the field, but usually just running. With modern methods of destroying the pests, the job would not be difficult, but we did it the hard way.

Another kind was the Colorado potato beetle. The adult bugs that had wintered over were not numerous, but soon the females began laying clusters of a hundred eggs or more on the under sides of potato leaves. The newly hatched red bugs began eating the day they were hatched, and with hundreds on each hill of potatoes, soon had every leaf stripped clean. The method we used on these soft bugs was to take a can partly filled with kerosene and with a short stick knock the bugs into the can. Pretty hard work and sometimes a losing battle; again we say—insecticides of modern times could have been a blessing.

But the worst of all the farmer's scourges was the chinch bug. A more popular name was stink bug for it certainly had a fetid smell. This insect seemed to winter over and hatch out in the grass lands surrounding grain fields. Usually commencing on small grain about the time the heads were filling; sucking the sap from bottom stalks causing the kernels to shrivel and the straw to break over and fall. A field badly infested might be a total loss.

No remedy was known after the bugs attacked the grain, but if the kernels were far enough advanced a hurried harvest was made. As soon as the grain was cut the army of chinch bugs moved out of the stubble into the corn fields. As the insects moved into the corn rows I have seen the outside rows of cornstalks black with stinking insects. Then row by row they crossed the whole field. The corn stalks, like wheat, were sapped and dried up. To salvage the corn for fodder, it was cut and thereby saving something for rough feed.

As the chinch bug travels only by crawling, some farmers tried to keep them from the corn fields by plowing deep furrows; as they piled up in the deep furrows, straw was hastily spread along the trench and set on fire. But this method, to be effective, must be continued from hour to hour as the bugs might continue to advance for days.

Many farmers felt it useless to fight the plague of bugs, so corn fields became badly infested, very little being salvaged. Looking back now, I wonder at the courage of the early settlers that enabled them to continue the fight through every discouragement—but what else could he do—but fight or starve?

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## HARVEST ON THE PLAINS

Producing crops on the plains west of the Missouri was a gamble—





for the early homesteaders. It is no doubt still a gamble—betting on the weather—with stakes very high. With plenty of moisture at the right times, the winnings can be great; with drouth and hot winds the failure is complete and thorough—not even the seed back.

Given sufficient moisture the small grain crops might be immensely bountiful. Then the problem was saving the grain before it became too ripe and shattered onto the ground. Not all growers could afford their own harvesting machinery; they must depend on a neighbor to cut the crop. The neighbor will have his own crop first—yours must wait.

The year I worked for Mr. Pliny Story the small grain crop was the largest on record up to that time. Story had probably 200 acres or more of small grain, mostly wheat. He started harvest when the first grain was barely ripe and the binder was in the field from sunup till dark.

Then as the grain ripened rapidly the binder operated all night, the “harvest moon” giving light enough to drive by. A second driver was used on the night shift. (My recollection is that Mr. Story bought a second binder and put it to work to save the crop.) And that was the summer the writer worked for the magnificent wage of \$13 per month—less than fifty cents per day for he worked a thirty-day month as far as chores went; and worked from five o’clock in the morning till dark.

But he got three meals a day, with parched barley for coffee—and no sugar on the table—but I am digressing—back to harvest.

### The Header

Other years before this bountiful harvest, with insufficient moisture to produce much straw, the grain headed out with straw so short it could not be successfully bound with the binder. Some cut the grain with the common mowing machine, raked it into windrows and attached it loose. But in that way much grain would shatter and be lost. So a machine was devised to cut and save the heads only.

This machine, naturally, was called a “header”; instead of a tongue in front like a binder, it was built so that the cutting face of the machine was pushed into the grain with a long steering beam extending out from the rear of the machine.

The rear end of this was supported on a single steering-wheel, with the driver’s platform above this wheel where he stood with the steering lever between his knees. He steered by shifting the lever with his legs as both hands were occupied in handling the reins of the four horses, hitched two on either side of the steering beam.

The header, pushed into the grain, cut a swath about 12 feet wide. The short straw and heads of grain fell onto the moving canvas conveyer and was elevated up into the header-box. The header-box was a large sort of hayrack built of thin lumber and made tight to save any shattered grain. The side toward the header was built low, slanting up to about five feet deep on the opposite side.

The header-box wagon was driven on the right side (stubble side) of the machine and the driver must take care to keep his rig in the exact position to receive the grain from the header elevator, and he could load his box fairly even from front to back by the way he drove his team up or let them drop back.

When his box was full, another driver must be ready to drive under the loading chute as the loaded rig drove away. The headed grain was





stacked into long ricks like hay and was later threshed out. (That is the way it was done at the turn of the century.) Now "combines"—combination harvester and thresher—cut and thresh at one time or operation.

## PIONEER THRESHING

My earliest recollection of seeing a threshing machine in operation was in Iowa on the Sheldon place, a horsepower outfit.

It was a cold fall day and a man stood on the power platform with an overcoat on. With a long whip he urged the six teams of horses on, around and around the power machine. Soon there was a well defined path circling the power plant, becoming deeper and dustier as the hours passed.

The "knuckled" universal joint tumbling rod or drive shaft came from below the horsepower machine on a slant, then leveled off and crossed the horse track path a few inches from the ground; over this rod each team had to step as they made the rounds.

From the outside of the circular horse track the driveshaft rose on a gradual slant to the separator, as the threshing machine is called. A platform was erected at the head of the machine, on which the "feeder" stood, facing the throat of the machine. At each side of the feeder other platforms or tables were fixed solidly, coming just below the feeder's elbows.

On these tables the grain to be threshed was thrown, heads of grain toward the cylinder, and the feeder reached out his arms, bringing the bundles from each side and fed them, with a certain whirl that would distribute the straw, heads first, along the face and into the teeth of the rapidly spinning cylinder.

The cylinder in this early-day thresher was possibly 18 inches in diameter and 30 inches long. Its hundreds of steel teeth, three to four inches long, were set in regular rows the length of the cylinder and dodged in such a way that the teeth in the whole cylinder were about one inch apart.

These teeth were synchronized with like teeth set in the stationery "concave" below. The cylinder must be driven at a very high rate of speed so that the tone of the spinning cylinder reached a high-noted hum.

An experienced thresherman is guided by this continuous high pitch tone, as to the proper time to feed the grain for best results. At the time of the horse-power, I have noticed the operator stop feeding until the speed built up again, then go ahead.

Such was the construction of the threshing machine at that time and for a few years later, except that later "separators" were larger, had more capacity, especially after steam power came on.

At the time I was old enough to notice my first thresher in Iowa, grain was threshed loose or from bundles bound by hand with straw bands. (The straw bands were easily broken by the thresher teeth and needed no bandcutter.) Just a little later the "self-binder" was invented, which used a small wire to bind the bundles. (I recollect when





we first moved to Nebraska from Iowa, father had a metal-spool of this binder wire.

This small tough wire was similiar to our present-day stovepipe wire. We had a spool of wire around for several years and it was handy to mend various things—as when years later hay baler wire was handy to have around, so much so that the common expression “gone hay wire” denotes a thing is on its last leg.

It was also on the Sheldon place where I saw men binding grain by hand, using wisps of straw to bind with. They were following a reaper machine which automatically raked bunches of straw from the reaper deck onto the stubble to be bound by hand.

Well, with the advent of the “self binder” it became necessary to add two more men or boys to the threshing crew—the band cutters. In the case of wire, bands must be severed with wire cutters by men standing on the foot boards at the tables. But wire as a binder proved unsatisfactory and soon hemp binding twine was used.

Then the bands were easily cut with a sharp knife even in the hands of a husky boy, so a couple of lively boys were always in demand at threshing time. And preferably one of the boys for safety, should be left handed.

That put the hand that wielded the knife farthest from the hands of the man who was feeding the machine. Even then boys were warned against making more than one thrust at each band as a second whack might cut the feeders hand as he reached for the bundle. So to make a good band cutter, you cut the band with one stroke.

A story was current when I was a band cutter of a certain quick tempered man who had grabbed up a boy who had cut him, and thrust the lad, head first, into the whirling cylinder. And the story concluded that the angered threshing crew immediately strung the murderer up with a rope, thus two lives were snuffed out.

Because I was left handed, I always had a steady job at threshing time as band cutter, unless they were short handed, then I might be assigned to the straw stack and a smaller boy put at the bundle table.

The first thresher was simple in construction. After the grain was separated from the straw and chaff by screens and a fan, it was conveyed out the bottom of the separator into a bushel measure. A tight shallow wooden box, large enough to hold two measures of one bushel each side by side, was set on the ground at the grain outlet.

A little door or diverter was contrived which shifted the stream of grain into the empty measure while the full one was being emptied into a wagon box or being emptied into bags. A small computing arrangement was attached to the diverter in such a way as to record one measure (bushel) each time the door was shifted; that was the method of recording and computing the number of bushels threshed from the set.

Later on, some machines had an automatic weighing attachment mounted at the top of the separator, recording the pounds of grain threshed and run directly into the waiting wagon box.

The first straw stacker was also simple, just a stationery extension extending perhaps 16 feet out from the tail of the machine. An endless canvas webbing with slats conveyed the straw out at the rear where it was forked back away to keep the stacker from clogging up.





And believe me, that was the dirtiest and most disagreeable job and the sweatiest job around the machine.

I have been put on a stack alone where a super-human effort was exerted to keep from being covered up. Later on the swinging stacker was invented, which automatically swung in about a third of a circle back and forward; this gave the stacker a chance to follow the stacker and keep the straw shoved back and ready for the return swing. But even then, in heavy straw, one man could be worked very hard; sometimes two men were put on.

I am writing this about the old time horse power and first steam outfits as I knew them, to contrast with the present day modern (1956) equipment. But even 50 years ago, there were improvements; hand cutting and hand feeding were dispensed with on the advent of the mechanical feeder for the threshing machine; the hemp bands are intercepted and cut by mechanical knives.

And at the tail end of the machine the powerful blower stacker takes care of the straw, and no man has to set foot or fork onto the straw-stack.

On the Sheldon place in Iowa and in those years in Nebraska I have watched the horse power machines threshing grain and shelling corn. But progress is always the order of the day; so, things as we knew them in the closing years of the last century, have changed so radically that I could not believe it myself had I not been there to witness the old time methods—contrasted with today.

Another form of horsepower in those years, but which never became very widely used in this country, was the tread mill, a machine operated by one or two heavy horses walking up a hill while confined in the stall of a machine. I never saw one in operation but saw advertisements in farm journals at that time. It is only mentioned in passing as a contrast or a relic of other days.

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## STORAGE FOR FARM CROPS

With plenty of moisture for the first few years from the back setting stage on, the new soil produced abundantly. As yet father had not prepared storage for grain (lumber cost much), so he ricked a long pile of corn in our yard.

Winter snows did it no harm but before spring rains came, it was well to get it shelled and sold or stored in a dry place. The next year he had built a corn crib by setting willow (green) posts 10 feet high in a circle and weaving willow brush between the posts. Many of the posts "took root" and became living posts or trees. Came a year when we had a sizeable acreage of wheat and oats. As prospects looked good for a bumper crop, just before harvest father brought a couple loads of lumber from town to build a granary, with Uncle Allen and Mr. Hornaday's help a two-bin building was erected and roofed.

Then because we might have to wait many weeks for a threshing outfit, our grain was cut and bound and stacked in four good sized conical stacks, there to await the thresher.

Also memory recalls how father stored our smoked hams and bacon





in the oat bin; when buried in the cool grain the meat was prevented from becoming rancid, even for months. Another incident, while loafing in the grain bins, was my introduction to the mystery of photography in a crude way. There was a large knot hole in one bin. Opposite that hole was the inner wall of smooth lumber (almost white in color). I noticed a curious thing—across that light wall a cow walked—up-side-down.

I soon discovered that the cattle moving about in the bright sunshine outside were projected like through a camera lens, onto the interior wall. I had then never seen a camera except in a photography studio, and it puzzled me to see the cow walking with feet in the air.

For a few years before father could afford a manufactured hand cornsheller, we shelled by hand the corn we needed to take to the mill to be ground into meal the corn fed to our stock was fed in-the-ear. (No, Junior, we did not pour the corn in the pigs ear.) Many times to shell the corn, father brought a couple of bushels of ear corn into the house of an evening, and after supper we all turned in and shelled it into a tub or boxes. To prevent wearing a raw spot from the rough corn, on the palm of the hand, we resorted to different devices.

One way was to place a spade or shovel with handle resting on floor and blade or scoop resting over edge of box; then drawing ear of corn across edge of shovel, causing shelled corn to drop into container. Some years cornbread, cornmeal mush and hominy were a considerable part of our food.

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## POWER ON THE FARM

Many of the early settlers in Furnas county brought work animals with them. In fact, the same animals which brought the settlers out in "Prairie Schooners."

Some had oxen teams like our neighbors the Stowe's. One German family over by Uncle Hud's had a work team of milk cows, making a team serve double purpose that way. But the Stowe oxen—in memory I see them now—big brindle steers, heavy and blocky, long horns tipped with brass knobs; moving slowly and ponderously but with great power; the plow turning up a deep furrow of rich Nebraska soil.

One warm day I watched them, tongues lolling out, sides heaving in their efforts in trudging up and back along the extended furrows the plow made. One evening I remember that our little mother and her brood—Myrtle, baby Roy and I, had a ride behind that "team of bulls" in the big lumber wagon. Mother had walked over to visit Mrs. Stowe, about two miles over there (when father was away working because a two mile tramp was hard on the little folks, Mrs. Stowe had one of her sons (Will, I believe) take us home behind the steers.

I remember so well how steep the trail down into the canyon was; the driver, walking beside the team, talking to them—steady Buck; hold it Bob; and on down the dim trail through the tall blue stem grass in the middle of the draw; grass that reached to the top of oxen and wagon box. This trip was made at dusk, the ox team must then plod back after dark—nearly an hour to make two miles.

Now back to farm power. To those who had teams of large horses plowing was not difficult. But the range ponies, when broken to work,





did very well for small animals but were really not heavy enough for most farm work. So ranchers, wishing to raise larger animals more suitable for the farm, would breed the mares to large strain of horses.

The colts from such union were much larger than their mothers when grown. Stallion clubs were formed. A number of men would club together and purchase a stallion of the larger breeds. Father joined such a club and they purchased an imported Clydesdale stallion. He was a handsome young horse, stocky and powerful. He cost a lot of money for that time. I heard them say he cost one dollar a pound and weighed 1700 pounds.

The club of men who owned him probably felt repaid by the crop of well bred colts. A man was hired to care for and handle the horses, and "custom service" helped pay for the stallion and his upkeep. I don't know if father continued to own an interest in the horse.

A "lumber wagon" was about the only rig most families had to ride in. Some wagons had no "spring seat", just a board across to sit on. Why a farm wagon was called a lumber wagon is beyond me. Perhaps it was because it "just lumbered along." A few had, besides the wagon, a lighter rig called the "buckboard", a four-wheeled vehicle.

Then later, in order to travel faster and still ride over wheels, came the road-cart, two wheels and shafts for one horse only; a narrow seat just over the axle and close up to the horse; no dash board, so lookout for Old Dobbon's tail—TO SAY THE LEAST. This narrow seat (hardly large enough for a fat man) made it just right for the young fellow taking his girl to a dance; usually had to hold his girl tightly with his left arm to prevent her from falling off the seat. (50-60 years later, in his jalopy, he holds her with his right arm for some reason, but not because the seat is narrow).

We never saw a "top buggy" or a two-seated surrey used in rural districts at that time, but we did sometimes see them in town; especially the surrey, with the fringe around its canopy top, did look grand.

And much in evidence in those days was the buffalo robe. A buffalo hide, carefully tanned or softened and with the hair left on, would be in nearly every farmers rig for a warm wrap in riding. Some carried a robe the year around as padding for the wagon seat.

We had one of those buffalo robes, the inside leather soft and pliable, the outside long curly hair making it perfect protection for winter weather. The robes were plentiful then and comparatively inexpensive for millions of buffalo had been slaughtered a few years previously entirely for their hides.

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## SPEAKING OF MULES

One year I drove the header box for Mr. Ried (of threshing machine fame) and drove a team of big mules of the lazy type, so that I carried a blacksnake whip to urge them on. I developed what I thought was proficiency in snapping the long leather "cracker" at the end of the lash with a report like a pistol shot.

And speaking of mules—reminds me of a team Uncle Ash owned. A pair of small well matched black mules, young and with plenty of life. Uncle Ash had trained them so that when he pulled up on the lines and





"kicked" the dashboard they were to "get out of there," and they really got out of there, which I learned accidentally.

It was when Uncle Ash was working away from home, at broom corn I think, and I was to go to his place and feed livestock. Perhaps three miles over there so I went over each day and fed and watered the stock enough to last till the next day.

One first day I hitched up the mules and went to "snap" a load of corn for feed I had not learned the trick he had taught them. I got to the field and started to turn them down a row, naturally pulling up on the lines to turn them into the field.

I must have accidentally kicked the wagon box or something to give them their cue, for that team of little black rascals struck out down the corn rows and the harder I pulled on the lines, the harder they dug into it. I finally learned that to stop them, just loosen the lines and shout, WHOA!

## THE BIG GRAIN FIRE

One fall I was water boy for the Reid outfit. It was my duty to keep a supply of water for the steamer.

With the big wooden tank, a hand pump mounted on the top of the tank with a long flexible hose which could be dropped into a stock tank or cistern, I was to go pump the tank full and get set as quickly as possible. Sometimes I had to go quite a distance for water; after pumping for all I was worth to fill the tank, I had to pound the old nags over the backs to get back to the set.

Between trips for water I was to keep straw hauled around to the engine. I believe I was about 14 that summer and a man's job was my lot.

At one set, I do not remember now whose grain, we were a half mile or more from the Jake Reid place, from where I hauled water. In the set were four large round stacks of wheat. The threshing machine was set right in the center between the stacks so the bundles could be pitched onto the tables from each side, beginning with the two back stacks first.

There was a strong wind blowing from the south and the machine was set, as was the custom, so that the wind would blow the chaff and dust toward the tail end of the machine and into the straw stack. They had just started to thresh, and I had hauled a rack of the first straw threshed around to the engine and gone to the Reid place for water.

While I was pumping the tank full I glanced toward the set and was horrified to see a cloud of smoke pouring from the wheat stacks. Well, I hurried back with what water I had, but even if I had been there at the beginning of the fire, it spread so quickly that nothing could have been done to save anything.

Although the engine smoke stack was fitted with a spark arrestor, a spark some way started a fire in the loose straw at the front of the machine, and with the strong wind, it enveloped the stacks in a minute. As soon as possible the engine was backed around and an attempt made to hitch onto the separator and pull it to safety. Tommy and others got badly burned hands in making the hitch.

My memory is hazy at this date, but I believe they pulled the





separator out and saved it. At any rate, all four stacks of wheat were a total loss. Possibly no insurance was carried by any one concerned, as protection from loss by fire was not the custom then as it is today.

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## GUNS OF LONG AGO

Like most boys, from my earliest childhood I was "crazy about guns". Before I learned to read, I used to urge Mother to read me stories about the "Wild West" that everyone was talking about.

In reality, we, the frontier families, were an important part of that "Wild West". At that time gunfights between cattlemen and rustlers; Sheriff's posse and stagecoach bandits were not uncommon.

Cattletowns in Kansas-Fort Dodge and others not so far from us—were then "wide open", with plenty of gunplay. Indians, though confined to reservations, would occasionally go on a rampage and attack settlers farther west and north of us. (We had two Indian scares in the few years we were on our homestead). And we were not removed so many years from the buffalo hunts.

Young boyish minds, naturally, were drawn toward thoughts of the gun which seemed to make the white man so powerful. So my whittled-out toys were usually guns.

Small game was plentiful and the head of the house needed a gun to help him furnish provender for his table. Father somehow came into possession of a single-barrel "fowling piece" (shot gun), muzzle-loader, percussion cap, rather small bore (smaller than 12-gauge); extra long barrel, longer than the common musket of that time, and had unusually long range for a "scatter-gun".

The gun carried the mark of a Belgium gunmaker; had brass mountings, such as butt-plate, trigger-guard, ramrod mountings and brass plate on side of stock. After I was allowed to use the gun, I took great pride in keeping all brass parts polished to shine like gold—even brighter than gold. Because of violent recoil when fired, the gun was known in our community as "Old Lip-tap". But I learned that if a small charge of powder was used, (black powder only at that time), the recoil was not so violent.

During winter months, men and boys, after chores were done, had plenty of time to hunt. When I was seven or eight years old, I could go with others to hunt, but was not allowed to carry and use a gun. That was not much fun, so when my folks were away from home I would slip Old Lip-Tap out and try my luck on a rabbit. I had shot several jacks that way but did not take the game home. The catch to that was father or whoever used the gun last usually left the charge in, only removing the percussion cap. That man-sized load was rough on me. Not to be detected in using the gun, I must reload it before hanging it up on its pegs in our sod wall.

But there came a day when the folks were gone and had left sister Myrtle for me to care for, that I saw a big flock of prairie chicken, or grouse, fly over and drop on a grassy point a quarter mile down the canyon. I just knew I could sneak down along the canyon, keeping out of sight below the rim, and get a shot at them. It was the fall of the year





and a big fat grouse would taste mighty good. I figured that if I did kill one, I could bring it home, for my folks would be just as hungry for a fat bird as I was and might not scold too much. Seeing that sister was busy playing, I ran in and got the gun and was on my way.

Keeping close under the rim, when I had reached a point about where I had seen the flock light, I cautiously poked my head above the rim. Wild game always have a lookout posted, and as I peeked up, sure enough, a few yards up the slope was the head and neck of a bird sticking up like a stake. I did not see any other birds and I did not want to take a chance of shooting after the flock had taken wing, (which I learned later was the best way to get my bird), so, I quietly slid the gun over the rim, pointed it in the general direction of the "stake" and blazed away.

Well, some grownup had loaded the gun alright and put in a man-sized charge, and old Lip-tap lived up to her reputation and promptly kicked me over. I could see a large cloud of chickens rising and sailing out of there and when I crawled up over the bank, there were two big fat birds flopping around in the grass. And was I proud of myself? I ran home with those birds, hung the gun up and started a fire to heat water to "dress" the grouse. They were not shot up too much and looked plump and fine when I had them picked. After that I was allowed to take Old Lip-Tap out for a walk quite often.

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## IT HAPPENED IN NEBRASKA

When only "trains" crossing Nebraska were wagon trains, winter hardships were more to be feared than hostile Indians. During the blizzard and freezing weather in the winter of 1866, it is said that 10,000 oxen froze to death on three emigrant routes leading West.

As early as 1875, one of Nebraska's principal railroads was promoting good will with a special train to introduce the new grass, alfalfa. The railroad even gave away alfalfa seed. This promotion was so successful that today Nebraska is one of the leading alfalfa producing states.

As railroads pushed westward and the telegraph followed, Indians took delight in pulling down the wires and shooting at the repair crews. Linemen traveling by hand-car tried to increase their speed with a sail! But they found when the wind switched, they were even more vulnerable to Indian attack.

Nebraska's first railway depot was perhaps as much a sight-seeing point as it was a take-off point for trains. Indians, buckskin-clad plainsmen, farmers, gamblers, businessmen, ladies—All could be seen daily at Omaha's first depot in 1868.

First "freight pilots" of the prairies were the picturesque mule-skinners and bull-wackers whose whips could be heard "popping" two miles away. These rugged, well-armed men earned \$70 a month for handling oxen—\$10 more for mules.

Old-time freighting was a costly operation. The picturesque Conestoga wagon, which carried from 5,000 to 16,000 pounds of freight, might cost up to \$1,500. Good mules cost from \$500 to \$1,000 per team, harness up to \$600. \$7,100 per outfit!







Once, the barren, treeless plains of Nebraska were depressing to pioneer women. Frequently they would carry cottonwood seedlings from miles away to plant around their homes. Finally, J. Sterling Morton established "Arbor Day" to promote tree planting in Nebraska. Later "Arbor Day" became a national holiday.



The New Addition

By 1865, prairie schooners were crossing Nebraska in droves! One express messenger recorded that in a single day's ride between Fort Kearney and Julesburg he counted 888 west-bound wagons drawn by 10,650 horses, oxen and mules.

After the invasion of the white man, Indians remaining in Nebraska soon adopted the ways of civilization. The clothing and transportation of the settlers were the first to be copied. But this Indian chief and his party stopping for the night still rely on practical, "portable" Indian shelters.

The earliest "Nebraskan's" known to the white man were the Pawnee Indians, believed to have lived here longer than any other tribe. They dwelt in houses made of earth and timber. First they built a framework over which they piled earth and brush. These were much like the early pioneer sod houses.

A "rest station" along the wagon route was once a welcome interlude to early pioneers crossing the Nebraska plains. Any relief from the monotony of making 15 miles a day with oxen was a glorious change. Because these way stations stocked provisions, many a poorly equipped emigrant was saved.

When bands of wild horses roamed the Great Plains, the early plainsmen usually captured them by lasso. But expert marksmen sometimes "creased" the horse's neck with a rifle ball, striking a nerve which stunned the animal until captured.





## PIONEERS HAD OWN SLANG!

Cold enough to freeze a brass monkey—way below zero.  
He don't know enough to come in out of the rain—Stupid.  
Not dry behind the ears—Callow.  
He can lie faster than a horse can run—Untruthful.  
Drunk as a Lord—Drunk to the point of being comical.  
Crooked as a dog's hind leg—Dishonest.  
He is a card—A comical fellow.  
Thinks he's the biggest toad in the puddle—Conceited.  
Terror to snakes—Bad acting fellow, sometimes used with affection.  
Regular big-wig—A prominent man.  
Fit as a fiddle—In good health and spirits.  
Lickety clip or lickety split—Fast gait.  
Chirp as a cricket—Especially applicable to a spry old lady.  
Young'un—Children.  
Go to grass—Expression of annoyance.  
Smart as a whip—Clever.  
Tight as a drum, or tick—Over fed.  
Stink pot—A mean acting child.  
Salt the cow to catch the calf—Kindness to prospective mother-in-law.  
Well heeled—Financially sound.  
I should smile—That is so.  
Lawsy, land's sakes, geeminy, glory be, gee whillickers—Exclamatory words.  
Dumfuzzled—Astonished.  
Parlor—Living room.  
Butlery or pantry—Small room in which kitchen supplies were kept and now as extinct as the dodo.

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## CHRISTMAS TOYS IN PIONEER DAYS

Though rocket ships and jet planes have replaced the hobby horses and the dolls all have "real" hair that can be curled, there's basically little difference between the toys that will delight youngsters this Christmas and those that brought squeals of joy from their grandparents when they were children.

The toy display in the State Historical Society's museum in the state capitol indicates that little girls in grandmother's time played with dolls of all shapes, sizes and kinds—just as little girls of today do—ranging from the finest Parisian to home-made dolls. One doll in the collection was brought by a Union soldier to his daughter when he came home from the Civil War. Another with a home-made body was given a little girl in Pekin, Illinois in 1881. Later, when the family emigrated to Buffalo county, Nebraska, the treasured dollies came along.

Then there was a charming doll of the 1880's which has blonde mohair hair and a complete wardrobe to place in her stylish trunk. Dollies rode in carriages, just like little brother or sister. One very attractive doll buggy dating from the late Seventies, has the early metal bound wheels used before the advent of rubber tires.





For playing house, Grandma had doll quilts, metal beds, toy irons and trivets, cradles, and tiny tables. Perfect for a tea party were the delicate Lowestoft doll dishes from the Gibson collection. The handleless cups indicate that they date from the early 19th century. They were brought to Nebraska from New England after the Civil War.

Grandpa would have been delighted, as a little boy to have the hobby horse purchased in Hebron in 1893. The perky little horse just recently added to the Museum's collection, has metal stirrups and a realistic mane and tail.

Other toys for boys include marbles of all sizes, jack knives, blocks, a hand-carved cow that can be pulled on wheels, a pig-in-clover game, dominoes and ice skates. There also is a set of hand-carved jack straws dating from the 1860's, a red "Patron" sled, a miniature horse, sleigh and riders.

One of the most prized gifts in the days before the movies and television was the magic lantern with its many colored slides of wonderful scenes from all over the world. There were many home-made toys of all kinds for the children of each generation to enjoy.

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### IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE

At early elections pails of beer with dippers were set near voting places. In modern times it is unlawful to sell liquor on election day.

Newspaper account of the first hearse read - "Undertaker Reppert has brought a fine hearse to town so we can be taken to our last resting place in style."

To break oxen, one already broken was hitched to a pole with one not broken. They were then allowed to run loose on the prairies, and when they were exhausted, they were broken.

During the two-day Easter snow storm in 1873 the sheep of Carl Klug, Fred and Ferdinand Koehler and Albert Magdanz were grazing on the praries northeast of Pierce. After the storm, the sheep could not be found. Finally they saw one sheep on the bank of Yankton slough all humped up, and as the slough was drifted level full, they started digging down near the lone sheep. About six feet down, they found the whole flock bunched together, nice and warm under the snow. They hopped out of the hole, one after the other and not one was lost.

One pioneer told of a scare he had. He said, "Half of my head went black."

A yoke of oxen cost around \$80.00.

When Indians stopped at the homes of settlers, they would look in the windows.

One remedy for a rattlesnake bite was to mix vinegar with red, clay soil and place it on the bite.

Instead of using soap for washing, water was put on wood ashes and this liquid was used to wash clothes.

Cookies were made from flour and molasses, as often pioneers had no sugar, lard or butter.

Pioneers were careful and never let their clocks run down because it was very difficult to get correct time.





In 1888 coffee cost a dollar for eleven pounds. Dress materials were very high and calico sold for thirty-five cents a yard.

Frederick Steinkraus, a pioneer hotel man of Plainview reserved a special table for traveling men, they being his best customers, because they paid a little more than other boarders. A large bowl of oranges centered that table. When a man paid for his meal it was Fred's custom to ask: "Did you sit by the table where the O-ranges was?" If the man replied "Yes" he would say: "Fifty Cents." One traveling man thinking he would have some fun with him, when asked "Did you sit by the table where the O-ranges was?" said: "No." Quick as a flash, Grandpa Steinkraus said, "Well, you ought-a sit there, fifty cents anyway."

Oxen were afraid of Indians. If within three miles of them, they would start running across the prairies.

If Indians saw a grindstone on the place of a pioneer, they would come to sharpen their knives. This always frightened the homesteaders.

In 1882 Pete Petersen and his brother broke prairie with oxen just west of Osmond. While they were breaking the land some Indians came through. The chiefs came a day or two ahead of the tribe but they refused to cross the broken sod until the tribe came.

During the blizzard of 1888, people did not dare touch stoves on account of the electricity. Big sparks shot across the corners of the room from the moldings.

A gambling game put on by sharks of the early days was called the Shell Game. A man had a three-legged stand and on it three shells into which he popped a small object like a black pea. He had a swift and continuous patter of words as he manipulated the pea from shell to shell, he asked the onlookers to pick the shell under which he placed the pea. This was at first fun and the ones testing their skill were quite successful in picking it. At length he asked for bets on the test and placed a five dollar limit on the guess. Seemingly very carelessly, he let the pea dribble under a certain shell as he turned to address one, who later proved a confederate. One man eagerly bet on an apparently sure thing, but to his surprise the pea was not under that shell, but under the one next to it. The pea never was under the shell but held between the thumb and little finger. Professionals at the game popped it under and out of the shells with marvelous celerity. Many a person was fleeced out of his money—and the slickers folded up suddenly and left town.

As farms were not fenced, a furrow was plowed between the different farms to mark the line.

In 1884 hay was burned in the burners common in those days. They also burned corn. Corn sold for seven and eight cents per bushel, eggs for two cents a dozen and butter for two cents per pound. Hogs sold for \$2.25 per hundred weight.

In early days people were bothered with bed bugs. Most of the lumber was shipped from northern Michigan and it was infested with bed bugs.

In 1894 the largest beet fields in the world were located in Pierce county. Ten to twelve tons were realized from an acre and prices were from \$4.50 to \$5.00 per ton at the sugar beet factory near Norfolk.

During the blizzard of 1888 A. H. Lincoln lost two pigs. Three weeks later he found them in a snow bank, still alive.





On September 1, 1879, three Pierce men went out on the prairies that afternoon and brought back 76 prairie chickens.

An early storekeeper said to William Lichtenberg who came to Pierce county in 1869 and located near Hadar; "If you can carry that barrel of salt (which weighted 298 pounds), I will give it to you." Mr. Lichtenberg carried it on his back from the store to his wagon—about a mile away—a gift like that meant much to an early settler. Mr. Lichtenberg was known as an unusually strong man.

Heavy rains were referred to by pioneers as "sod-soakers" or "gully-washers."

In the nineties, villages had their curfew bells which rang in case of fire, and at 9 o'clock each night they rang out their unwelcome and doleful message to the children, and sent them scurrying for home.

Pioneers planted cane and made sorghum and used it in place of sugar to sweeten fruit.

### Sorghum Press

The August Raasch family one and one-half miles west of Norfolk, had a sorghum press on their farm. This press had three steel rollers 20 inches wide, which were fastened onto four posts 6 feet high. Over the top of the press was a long curved pole. The heavy end was used as a balance and the lighter end was used as a sweep to which a horse was hitched. The horse would walk around in circles. This would operate the press. Then the green sorghum stalks were hand fed between these rollers. The juice would run into wood vats. This was a busy season, as it was all hand work. The sorghum grew tall and the leaves had to be stripped while standing in the field. They used wooden sticks shaped like a knife. Then the stalks were cut down by hand with corn knives and the tops cut off. It was then piled on wagons to keep it clean. It had to be pressed right away. Then the juice was put into big pans 4x6 feet which held about 100 gallons. These big pans would rest on masonry over a fire box. Brush or anything that could be found for fuel was used. It was a round the clock job, as it had to be kept at a slow boil all the time. A green foam would form on the top, this had to be skimmed off. One pan full would make 10 gallons of sweet sorghum. This was another neighborly sharing job. I remember those old timers talking about the good time they had when it was sorghum cooking time. How I used to love it over my corn bread.

Herman Braasch held church services in his home until the small colony called Rev. Heckendorf, a Lutheran minister. He came from Wisc.

Herman Braasch had a crate built which was fastened on the side of his covered wagon and which housed two pigs on his trek from Wisc. The pigs grew so fast it was necessary to build a larger crate before they reached Nebraska.

Pioneer grandmothers wore more clothes in bed than our daughters do on the streets. They wore night socks, a night coat, a night cap and many other things.

The pioneer father was really the boss and the mother was second in control. Tis said "A switch hung behind the door."

Modern pioneer conveyance was a two-wheeled road cart, drawn by one horse. Many a maiden was wooed and won by a beau in such a stylish rig.





Men used mustache cups, people ate with their knives and drank from saucers, all of which was proper in pioneering days.

Corn pickers used husking pegs and received two cents a bushel for picking corn.

"The best girl" was often the recipient of candy hearts, chewed paraffin or rosin weed gum while the "best beau" smoked cigarettes made of corn silk wrapped in paper from a Sears, Roebuck catalogue.

In the early 1900's chautauquas were popular and were the means by which many people were given high class entertainment.

Ladies used side saddles and wore cumbersome skirts to go on their morning and evening canters.

Bicycles had high front wheels and low rear wheels.

Literary societies and spelling bees were popular in the early days and were held in the school houses which served as community centers. People from the towns and countryside enjoyed them.

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## DR. VERGES, FARMER AND PIONEER PHYSICIAN

Early history of Pierce Co. cannot be written without mention of Dr. F. Verges; pioneer Dr., who homesteaded in Pierce but who took care of the early settlers in Stanton and Madison Counties as well.

Drs. were scarce and many homemade remedies were used, the most popular and effective seemed to be a teaspoon of black pepper.

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## MONUMENT TO PIONEERS IS DEDICATED

The courthouse lawn was a beautiful background for the unveiling of the granite boulder, erected to the memory of pioneers on June 11, 1936.

Through the efforts of the Pierce County Historical Society, assisted by the county commission, the realization of memorial was made a fact.

A huge Block of native granite given by Frank Koehler, from his farm near Pierce, was moved to the courthouse grounds. A bronze plaque with a poem "Pioneers", written by Miss Elsie Hartman, and the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee, inscribed upon it, tells the story of the occasion.

The Poem follows:

Live on! Oh Spirit of the Pioneers,  
Our heritage throughout the years!  
Dauntless Courage to face the trackless dawn  
Of unknown perils, and e'er marching on  
With Hope as outrider in shining cloak  
And Faith serenely perched on oxen yoke,  
Even onward, with eyes on western stars—  
Your goal achieved, what matter, then the scars!  
Live on! Oh, Spirit of the Pioneers,  
Our heritage throughout the years!

——Elsie Hartman



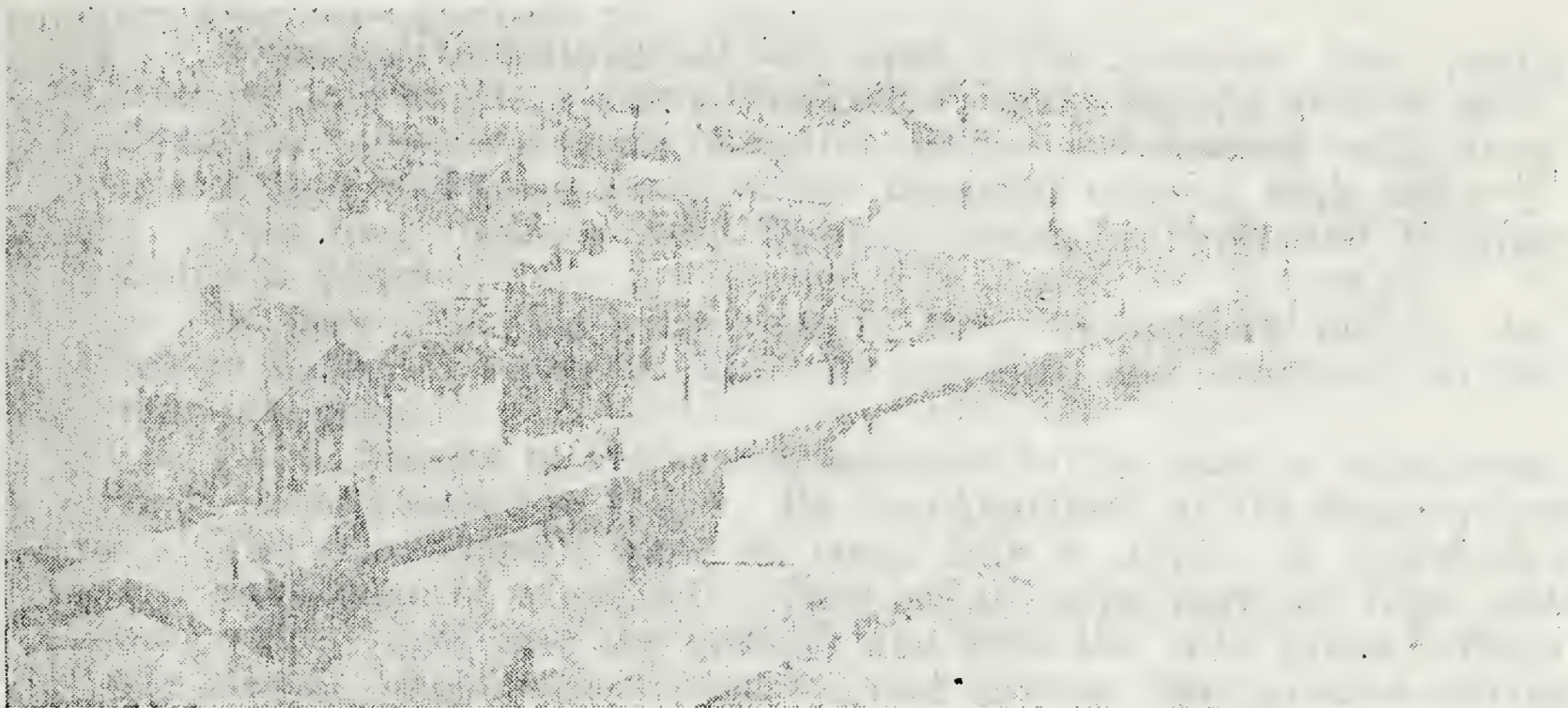


## HISTORICAL FACTS WE ARE PROUD OF

Agents gave the early pioneers of Norfolk many problems in the 1870's.

A lightening rod agent contracted with a farmer to put rods on his house for \$10. When the work was completed the agent presented him with a bill for \$80. Another agent charged \$85 for \$11 worth of rods and threatened to kill the farmer when he refused to pay.

Ordinance No. 74 passed in 1887, provided for the construction of board sidewalks of uniform width on both sides of Norfolk avenue from Seventh street east to First street. The board walks were less than one inch thick, six feet wide and rested on at least five stringers.



Scene of Norfolk Flood Norfolk Ave—1887

The year 1872 saw the institution of Norfolk's first newspaper. The Pioneer was written by hand, edited by Charles Mathewson and Mary Fish, and published only twice.

The subscription rates were three bushels of wheat or one-half cord of wood for one year; six bushels of potatoes or one bushel of beans for six months; and one mink or two dozen eggs for three months.

Norfolk's first weekly printed newspaper, The Journal, was established by Clarence Selah and Maurice S. Bartlett, Nov. 30, 1887. Wood and a few loads of corn at 20 cents a bushel were accepted on subscriptions.

First election in Madison County was held in 1868.

Norfolk's first village "lockup" was built in June, 1882. It was 10x12x7 feet and constructed of four inch material, except the floor which was of two-inch material. It had one door and two windows.

The construction company was allowed \$145 for building the Jail. McClary and company was allowed \$3.30 for a water pail and blankets for the jail, and the marshal was authorized to have the outer walls of the jail sodded, provided the cost did not exceed \$20. Five men were appointed special police at \$3 a day for the Fourth of July.

The first rude survey with a pocket compass and bed cord was made by William Sharpe in July, 1866. He came with the settlers as they passed through to Cuming county.

The first land sale was made when Herman Braasch purchased a





claim from Mr. Mattias Kerr. He paid \$200 for this claim, 15 acres of which was broken and seeded to wheat. He sold the wheat as seed for \$2.25 per bushel, the first grain raised here.

The Braasches were not satisfied with spring wells at the creek, so they dug the first real well in Madison county.

Herman Braasch and August Raasch got an 8 horse powered threshing machine from Omaha in 1868. The machine was loaned to Mr. William Barnes at Union Creek some 16 miles away.

When some enterprising company brought in the first reaper, it occasioned a holiday. Farms were temporarily deserted. Everyone attended the demonstration which took place just north of the present Granada block. The ladies dressed in white and provided the food for the spectators.

Some native cottonwood was used. The members used nearly 200 oxen to pull the logs from the Yellow Banks to the church site. The 24x30 foot floor was made of native willows and covered with straw. For a roof they had loose green willow branches covered with sod.

The first deacons were Herman Braasch, Ferdinand Wagner and Gottlieb Rohrke.

In this first Lutheran church, Rev. Heckendorf taught the first school in Madison county. Open to any child, but conducted in the German language.

Dr. F. Verges of Pierce administered to the sick on occasional trips from his homestead in Pierce. He headquartered at the Braasch home.

The grasshoppers came at noon, July 4, 1874. By 5 o'clock there was not a head of wheat left. They ate the corn, bark off trees, potatoes and onions right into the ground, and even the wild grass. They even ate Martin Machmueller's vest he had left on the ground during his lunch hour.

Madison county was organized in July, 1867. The first meeting was held July 27, 1867, with August Raasch serving as Judge, H. Braasch and F. Heckendorf as judges of election and August Lentz and B. R. Barnes as clerks.

Pierce High School - First in County was Organized in Pierce about 1886.

On January 21, 1868, in a small hut on Taylor creek, 32 pioneers met to select their first county officers. They were: Herman Braasch, August Raasch and Henry Barnes, county commissioners; Frederick Wagner, probate judge; Samuel Thatch clerk; Frederick Heckendorf treasurer; August Lentz, surveyor; Horace J. Séverance, coroner; Fielding Bradshaw, sheriff; Fred Boche, county assessor; John Allison, William Bickley and Fred Haase, constables.

The first postoffice was established here on June 19, 1868. August Raasch was the first postmaster.

On January 25, 1870, Herman Braasch platted Norfolk on Section 22, township 24 north, range 1 west.

First Hotel here was built in 1871 by Ferdinand Wagner.

By 1871 there were 6 schoolhouses in Madison county. The wages ran from \$18 to \$40. Six months was the maximum term.

On January 25, 1887, a special election was held on the proposition of granting a franchise for the construction and operation of a street





railway in Norfolk. The street car was mule-propelled, driven by Bob Seiler. The fare was 5 cents and the service was erratic.

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### **"SOCK PARTY OF 1901"**

The occasion, a printed invitation to a Sock Social at the G.A.R. Hall, Thursday Evening, October 31st, 1901.

Enclosed was a small sock made of pink Chambray, button hole stitched with green silkateen. Near the top was a green draw string for the use after the money had been put in the sock. These lines accompanied the invitation and the eye catching piece of handwork.

"This little sock we give to you—Is not for you to wear. Please multiply your size by two and place there in with care—in pennies or cents. Just twice the number that you wear, we hope it is immense. So if you wear a number ten, you owe us twenty, see? Which dropped within our little socks, will fill our hearts with glee, 'Tis all we ask, it isn't much—and hardly any trouble but if you only have one foot we'll surely charge you double. Now if you have a friend quite dear, you'd like to bring with you, or if you know someone who'll come, we'll gladly give you two. So don't forget the place and date, we'll answer when you knock, and welcome you with open arms—But Don't Forget Your Sock".

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### **"POUND PARTY OF 1901"**

In another town, we once did a good deed by giving a pound party to some people. Butter, potatoes, beans, anything that could be measured by the pound and used for food was donated. Each brought sandwiches or cake for the lunch, which completed the evening.

Another idea that was used successfully was the soliciting of wrapped packages with the name of the donor inclosed. These packages were sold, thus doing a double amount of work in helping to raise money.

Talent shows, consisting of readings or music, or both in an evening's entertainment, can be made profitable if there are several who enjoy taking part. For this a lunch could be served afterwards, for a small price, which would count up. If some extras in costume and dialect are added to the program this will help furnish the humor for the entertainment. This last idea, may sound like a much used way, but with special planning it can be a profitable evening which the crowd will enjoy.

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### **FIRST HOMESTEAD IN PIERCE COUNTY SOUTH OF HADAR**

The official records in the Department of the Interior at Washington, D.C. disclose the fact that the first homestead in the county was made Nov. 1, 1867 by August Ninow, whose name is now spelled Nenow. The filing was made at the Dakota City land office and was the three hundred seventieth homestead to be filed upon.

This homestead is located just south of the town of Hadar. The present owner of the land is Wm. A. H. Bauermeister.





The following is the title description as revealed on this earliest of Pierce county homestead entries: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 32, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 33, T 25N, RIW 6th P.M. It contained 160 acres. The final certificate, No. 194, of the Norfolk series was issued to Mr. Ninow, Jan. 20, 1875.

August Nenow, who took this homestead, belonged to the colony of German settlers who came from Ixonia, Wis. in the summer of 1866 and settled where the city of Norfolk is now located.

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## FIRST SCHOOL IN PIERCE COUNTY IS DISTRICT I IN HADAR

The following history of the organization of the first school, Dist. 1 in Pierce County was contributed:-

In about 1867 there were no buildings where regular classes could be held, so, Mrs. August Huebner's granery was used. There was probably an enrollment of about five pupils and the teacher was Bertha Rode, a sister of Herman Rode. She was later married to Mr. Warrick Guef. She died many years ago.

The first school house in Pierce County was built on the place where the George Wagner farm is now located. Later the buildings were moved to the Oestrich 120, a farm located a short distance west of the bridge on Highway 13 from Hadar to 81. It was there quite a number of years before the Dist. was divided and this one was numbered 15 with 7 sections and the 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  sections East remained No. 1.

The old building which was cheaply built was moved into Dist. 15 on the Lichtenberg place right beside the road going to the Lutheran cemetery.

Dist. 1 purchased an acre of land from Mr. Oestreich for \$25.00 on which a new building was erected at a cost of \$1314.37. Mr. Hason Turner was County Supt. Ferdinand Conrad was the first director.

District 1 was officially organized Febr. 14, 1871 - census 46 pupils of school age.

District 15, was organized Febr. 3, 1881—August Huebner first director and the census was 26 pupils of school age.

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## FIRST ELECTION CALLED IN 1870

The first election held in Pierce County was on July 26, 1870.

J. H. Brown was authorized to call this special election which resulted as follows: Clerk-J. H. Brown; Treasurer-H. R. Newis; Sheriff-August Brisso; County Supt.-A. J. Babcock; Surveyor-A. J. Huebner; Assessor-Carl Griebnow; Commissioners-R. S. Lucas, August Nenow, and T. C. Verges.

The first election was held in a sod and slab house on S $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E. & N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 26, Township 26N., Range 2W. The land was first owned by Geo. Ware of Sioux City, who sold it to J. H. Brown, who in turn sold half of it to R. S. Lucas.







As near as can be learned, seventeen votes were cast. At this first election, it was said Mrs. A. S. Lucas cooked a duck dinner and served all voters. Ducks were so numerous in those days that Robert Lucas, a young lad, brought down between 15 and 20 at one shot; on the Breyer pond near the Lucas home.

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Family Carriage—1898

### OLD TIMERS TALE

A group of old-timers were hashing over days of their youth, when one came up with this story of his father's first and only experience driving an automobile.

Used to horses, he ordered the car to "whoa and possibly pulled on the steering wheel as on a line. Anyway, the car headed for the ditch and "whoaed" when its snout pushed against the far side of the ditch.

His wife, who had previously driven the car, again resumed her place and thereafter the farmer became a back seat driver.

"Whoa," he would order his wife.

When he wanted her start the car, "whop, whup, whup" he would chuckle to her, as he did to his handsome team.

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### FRIENDLY MAURAUDER

#### A Pioneer Story

Christobel Adams stooped to open the oven and wrinkled her nose appreciatively when the spicy aroma of pumpkin pies rushed out at her. Ah, this was the pumpkin pie recipe that had made Grandma Adams famous in her large family and still larger community back in Kentucky.





Few of the family had ever been able to emulate Grandma's rule o'thumb, a little-of-that, a little-of-this formula.

Across the hard-packed, clean-swept dirt floor of the soddy kitchen, Cristy carried the bubbling pies one by one, content in the prideful knowledge that she was one of the few who could make them like Grandma did. Then they were all in a row—six golden, steaming pies, five to be exact, not counting the small one she had made for Teddy.

Her lips quirked in a smile. That boy and his appetite. His appetite would be a whopper today after his hunting tramp over the prairie with Joel—he was eight. She wouldn't be surprised if Teddy ate the whole pie.

The fragrant steam caught her up and bore her away on a wave of homesickness. Away from the barren homestead on Nebraska Territory to the spacious old Kentucky house where sensible members of the Adams family would be gathered for a festive Thanksgiving dinner. She knew it all so well—the procession of squat vegetables dishes, the huge platters, flat relish container, tall cool mugs of cider. All savored with the rush of feet, chatter of voices snatches of laughter and of song—that warm, happy association of people . . .

All the sensible Kentucky Adams' had been agast at Joel's pioneering spirit. They looked upon him as the odd Adams, never content to leave good enough alone. And when Joel had turned his good-natured, deaf ear to their logic, they had tried to influence him through Cristy. Nebraska Territory was no place for a woman. There were wolves and buffalo and high, strong winds and isolation that drove women to insanity and savage indians that carried white women away on fleet-footed ponies.

A twig snapped on the hearth, breaking the deep-dead silence, and Cristy came slowly, wistfully back from Kentucky. She walked through a vacuum of loneliness to the door, pushed it open and stood there, a slim, solitary figure in a faded blue calico dress.

Hands on hips, her curving strong fingers dug into her slender waistline. Ouch! Now she had proven to herself that she actually was here. And soon Joel and Teddy, man and boy, exact replicas except in point of size and years, would come noisily around the bend of Big Sandy. Then she would be no longer alone and a little frightened.

Shading her eyes against the evening sun, her gaze followed the curve of the creek where willows stripped of autumn dress by November winds, shrank into the shelter of the low banks. Less than one short, busy year ago, Joel had "whoood" the ox team and climbed down from the prairie schooner, "This is it, Cristy darlin'. Wagon trains will pass along this trail, wagon trains are people, hungry people, needin' food. This Crick here will bring the settlers. We'll have neighbors . . ."

Cristy's thoughts were diverted by a movement among the willows. She bent swiftly forward, squinting intently along the Creek bank. She could have sworn it was something of a mottled gray, not the color of the willows. She watched for a long, tense moment before she relaxed. A prairie chicken, probably, or a startled quail.

Joel had been only right. All summer the wagon trains had passed, camping for a night, swapping news and stories and horses, buying of Joel's cured hay, maize and melons, but the neighbors of Joel's prophecy had failed to appear. And now with winter in the offing, the wagon trains too had stopped traveling.





So much rich land for the taking, Cristy thought, looking out over the broken eighty that had produced potatoes, beans, corn, and yellow pumpkins for Thanksgiving pies. She flipped her apron at the hens that ambled around the house-the bare dooryard and listened to the grunts of the contented fattening pigs in a nearby pen . . . Everywhere she saw reasons for thanksgiving, yet no one with whom to share the day. It was as though both she and the land were waiting, just for folks.

Then her chin lifted in determination. Now she wasn't behaving like the good homestead wife that Joel deserved. She did have folks, she had Joel and Teddy, and today they should have a prairie Thanksgiving day to remember.

Pushing her long calico sleeves to the elbows, she turned purposefully back into the house where the Thanksgiving dinner was simmering on the back of the stove. She lifted each lid and sniffed experimentally. Ah, delicious! done to a turn, from the oven-baked beans to the quail and stuffing.

Humming a little tune, she pulled the crude, homemade table from the sod wall. The hum broke into song as she crossed the kitchen and fitted a key into a rusty lock on the old trunk. Buried there beneath layers of paper and her wedding dress, were her treasures. She lifted them gently, one by one: The snow-white linen tablecloth with matching napkins, the heavy silver napkin rings, the cut glass jelly dish that Grandma Adams had given her.

With the treasures in her hand, she paused, her song dying thinly as her eyes fell on the loaded rifle that always stood in the corner behind the trunk near the door. For emergencies, Joel had said. For when a coyote came snooping around the farmsite or a hawk circled too low and too near.

The faintest of sounds outside the soddys' one window trapped her taut senses and she stood still, her treasures pressed against her. From the corner of her eye, she imagined she saw a gray shadow flit across the window pane. Tense, she waited, her fingers twisting into the heavy linen cloth. When she detected no further shadow of movement, she turned cautiously. Only the small, bare window pane stared back at her. Outdoors she heard the sudden, familiar cackle of a hen and she let out a pent-up breath of relief. Her fingers fumbling. Keep busy, busy, busy. How well she had learned that keeping busy is a good antidote for fright!

Her wary glance would not stay away from the window, and this time she saw it distinctly—a thing watching her!

In that first moment of stunned reaction, her mind raced with cool precision. It must be a face, at least it seemed to have eyes set in a horrible distorted mask of stripes of color. Then, as quickly, the coolness left her and she stifled a scream by stuffing her fist into her mouth. Her feet unfroze from the earthen floor and she leaped across the room toward the rifle.

The soddy door opened in her face and she rocked back on her heels as an obstacle barred her way.

Unable to move, she held her ground, her frightened eyes climbing the length of buckskin leg from the beaded moccasins to a huge feathered head-dress that sat atop two long, black braids. Indians! The first she had seen on Nebraska Territory.





Her heart pounding, Cristy backed slowly, her hands behind her reaching. Her groping fingers touched the tablecloth, and gripping the edge of the board, she spun around the table with her back to the wall.

As three tall, half nude and horribly painted men followed the feathered, heavily beaded one into the soddy all the stories of Indians atrocities she had heard surged upon her in painful clarity. If only Joel would come . . . OH PLEASE, PLEASE, JOEL COME . . .

The painted ones muttered in guttural conversation with the befeathered one, their shrewd eyes sweeping the soddy, coming to rest on Christy, wild-eyed and white of face, behind the protection of the table. Then they moved apart and seated themselves crosslegged on the floor. With arms folded across their chests, faces stolid, they stared at Cristy and Cristy stared back, her breath coming in little pants like a racer who has run a long way.

Minutes of this tense impasse held. Cristy's icy fingers moved aimlessly, picking and folding at the table linen. Was this the way Indians tortured their victims? Did they sit motionless and staring hour upon hour before taking the victim's scalp—SCALP . . Both trembling hands flew to her head and to keep from screaming, she bit her lip until blood came.

A thin waver of reason edged into her panic and she noticed that their watchful eyes were following the movement of her hands. That was it! She would keep her hands busy, hold the Indians fascinated until Joel came. Oh, Joel, Joel, please come . . .

Swiftly, she drew the golden pumpkin pies across the table to her and began pushing them, like men on a chessboard, this way and that. Deftly, she arranged the six pies in a line, switching them as adroitly to a vertical position, noting from the corner of her eye that her callers were watching in interest.

Presently, as though tiring of the game, the befeathered one gave a deep-throated grunt, "Eat".

Only one word spoken, but a word that Cristy understood. Of course, feed them. Why hadn't she thought of it before? Perhaps after all a full meal, they would go to sleep . . . or something . . . until Joel could come . . . JOEL, hurry, hurry . . .

With a daring born of desperation, she left her table fortress, ran to the stove, began filling plates with Quail and vegetables. She heaped the plates full and set each one on the floor before the crossed feet of her guests. Then she ran back to the table, and grabbed up the pies. A pie to a man, four of her delicious pumpkin pies.

Now it was Cristy's turn to be fascinated. The hungry men wolfed up the heaped plates of food noisely. With her senses straining for a sound of Joel's return, Cristy felt her hope dying with the speed by which the men were consuming their dinner. What would come next, she thought wildly. Their appetites appeased, would they kill her . . . carry her away . . . Oh, Joel, why don't you come . . .

She thought of the gun, but the firm back of the befeathered one was against the trunk. No hope there. She picked up the napkin ring, shifting it between her hands. Could she use the three napkin rings for defense? Hurl them at her captors— Oh, JOEL, Why don't you come.

When the last crumb of pie was finished, the Indians arose as one man. There seemed to be a wordless signal between them. Without a





word or backward glance, two of them walked through the door and disappeared as it swung shut behind them . . . This appeared to be the signal for the next move, for now the third man moved toward the table behind which Cristy again stood.

Cristy flattened herself against the wall. Now he was coming for her . . . Oh, Joel, Joel . . . The breath whistled through her nostrils, her eyes darting desperately, fell upon the napkin rings. What to do? Throw them or offer them as a ransom. She stooped and gathered them close in a swoop, thrust them toward the advancing Indian. "They're valuable," she said in a croaking voice. "They are worth money, take them—."

The Indian's long brown hand came out deliberately. Cristy closed her eyes, slumping back against the damp wall. She felt the dampness between her shoulder blades and thought came that it felt like a grave.

When she opened her eyes again the brown hand had gone past the napkin rings, past Cristy, had closed on the remaining big pie. She let out a long, quivering sob when the Indian, the pie held firmly in both hands, turned and went soundlessly out of the soddy.

Only the befeathered one remained, standing erect with arms folded over his chest. Beaded bracelets adorned his wrists, a long, wide strand of beads hung from his neck almost to his knees. As Cristy faced him, too dazed now to think, too numb to feel, he came sedately forward on his moccasins.

He removed the wide strand of beads from his neck, holding them at arms' length in both hands as he approached her. Cristy gulped. Was this a method of torture? Did Indians strangle white women with strands of beads?

With some kind of ceremoney, and with great dignity, the Indian slipped the beads from his hands around her neck. With a lift of his hand, he said, "How" and padded after the others.

"Well", said Cristy, when her heart had settled back into place, her racing pulses stilled. She slumped against the table until she heard Joel shouting a greeting and Teddy's boyish treble joining in excitedly. She rushed to the door and stood there swaying, hanging on to the rough frame, the heavy, long beads swinging about her neck.

Joel, quail dangling from his belt, was talking in sign language to the departing Indians while Teddy was jumping excitedly up and down on first one leg, and then the other, watching. Both held up a right hand in friendly ceremoney as they moved apart, Joel and Teddy loping along the creek bank, the Indians disappearing among the willows.

"Well," said Cristy. She turned, weak kneed, into the soddy and sat down abruptly in the middle of the floor.

Joel and Teddy found her there, her slender shoulders shaking, sobs gusty, the long strand of beads encircling her knees which she had drawn up.

"Oh, pshaw, now" Joel soothed, picking her up, "that was Chief Washushe, the old one. His people are friends of the white settlers."

"The pie," she knew she wept in relief, but she had to have some excuse. "They ate it all except the little one I made for Teddy—."

"Pshaw, now," said Joel again. "You wanted folks to share Thanksgiving."







Cristy drew away, began to dry her tears. A thought, one of which she could some day boast to her grandchildren, had struck her, a new and proud one.

"Well, anyway," she murmured, trying to smile. "Anyway I bet Grandma Adams' pumpkin pies never received a prize just like—" she lifted the heavy strand of brightly-colored beads, "this"!



Wagon Train

## BRAASCH REUNION—SEPTEMBER 27, 1953

By Rev. H. H. Spaude and Arnold Deering

We have often heard the slogan: "Young Man, go West, Young Man, go West, go West." It may have been this slogan that inspired a group of Germans in Ixonia, Jefferson County, near Watertown, Wisc. No doubt they had heard about the wonderful opportunities out in the West, namely: Nebraska. No rocks to be removed off the fields, and no timber to cut down. The density of timber kept them too far from schools, and the winters were unbearably damp and cold so the general sentiment was for moving West. The West held out to these Germans all the possibilities of happiness, contentment, and a future life. From their early history we also learn that beside the pioneering spirit of the West, there was also this contributing factor: Farm land in Wisconsin was unproductive and expensive at thirty-five dollars to forty dollars per acre. And most of these families had spent all their funds for passage to America. The forefathers of these German families in this settlement near Watertown, Wisc., came from Germany in 1843 by sail boats. One ship had rough sailing for thirty days. Two hundred fifty people were on board. They ran out of food and drinking water. Many became ill; some died. The mother of William Duehring was one of those that passed away.

So this colony of Ixonia, German families had a meeting in their church, The St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran, discussed the situation and





finally decided to leave for the West. They chose three men to explore the possibilities of settling in Nebraska. Before this they had already heard favorable reports from a certain Mr. Stiefer at West Point, Nebraska, also a cousin of Rev. Heckendorf, who incidently became their first resident pastor in Norfolk. The three chosen were Herman Braasch, born in Germany, May 22, 1818, and Mr. Wagner. The third party decided not to go. He was afraid the Indians would get his scalp. So these men set out in the late summer of 1865. They traveled by train from Chicago to St. Joseph, then the western railroad terminus, and up the river on a ferry boat to Omaha. Then they walked west until they reached West Point, the most western settlement at that time. They considered West Point, too densely settled, to accomodate their Wisconsin Colony. Eight miles above West Point lived Mr. Sporn, the most advanced settler, who took them farther North-West. Here they also stopped with a family named Steffer who had come west a few years earlier. Moving west along the Elkorn River and its north fork they set up their camp. Here was virgin country, sufficiently open to grazing and cultivating, and yet plentifully wooded with elm, cottonwood, ash, box-elder, and willow along the creeks. With a group of land surveyors, who at that time were surveying this part of the State. The government was getting it ready for settlers to come in. The grass was tall and only trees along the rivers, These men found the Indians friendly. After several days these men decided on a spot along the North Fork River. The Braasch claim was the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 24, which today is the Northeast part of Norfolk. These men then returned to their colony in Ixonia, Wisconsin, and gave an encouraging report.

On May 14, 1866, forty-two families consisting of about 125 people started for Nebraska. They came in three trains under the leadership of Herman Braasch and Louis Heckendorf, and the third made up of farmers north of Watertown. Members of this original colony included: Herman Braasch, John Raasch, Fred Dederman, Fred Boche, William Boche, Carl Hille, Mr. M. Machmueller, J. M. Heckendorf, Herman Wachter, Louis Wachter, William Seiffert, Christian Haase, Fred Haase, Frank Wichman, Ferdinand Wagner, Gottlieb Winter, Carl Conrad, William Ruhlow, August Melcher, Jacob Kaun, Gottlieb Rohrke, Julius Wichert, Carl Uecker, William Duehring, Frederick Sporn, Jacob Barnhardt, William Fisher, August Lentz, Frederick Lehman, Henry Klug, Mr. Pasewalk, Mr. Huebner, Mr. Hartman, Zutz, Buettow, and Ferdinand Haase, and Mr. Lucas.

Each family had a wagon drawn by four oxen. Each had two cows and some sheep. Braasch's had three horses to start out with. One horse died on the way. Braasch brought some Chester White pigs, and had to enlarge the box twice enroute. It took them 6 weeks to make the trip from Ixonia, Wisc., to Norfolk, Nebraska, some 600 miles. They arrived in July, 1866. Think of it-6 weeks to travel 600 miles. Today we make the same trip in less than 12 hours by car.

The trip was a most tedious one. The wagon trains moved slowly. On Sundays they paused for Worship. Once a week they halted to allow the women to do the necessary washing, ironing and baking. The women made their own starch by grating potatoes and letting them stand in water. The starch would settle to the bottom.

It was not possible to bring many supplies. At Omaha all stopped to stock up with flour and other staple supplies. Having difficulty to find







West Point, they asked a lone homesteader and discovered they missed the settlement and had to turn back. West Point was small then, a saw-mill, store, and few huts. Here we are told that Herman Braasch planted potatoes, north of West Point, on the 4th of July. These were planted in sod and had no cultivation, yet when later in the Fall he returned to harvest them. They were some big potatoes, the best ever raised.

Upon arriving at the Northfork of the Elkhorn River the colonists found a small party of young men from Illinois had already settled there. Since these men didn't care to live with the Germans, they prepared to move. And their claim was bought by Herman Braasch, consisting of 160 acres for \$200. This claim is the present site of King's Park. The purchase included a sixteen by sixteen by seven foot unfloored log house which was thatched with sod. The wheat on this land yielded enough for more than payment for the claim. Here Mr. Braasch also dug the first real well in Madison County. Now remained the task of staking out the claims for the others families; huts had to be built; and the ground had to be made ready for planting and sowing.

To prevent bickering, heads of families drew lots out of a hat for the farms. While the preliminaries were being arranged, the families in their wagons continued living as they had before until the log houses were built.

The food supply was a real problem for there early settlers, since they came too late to do any planting. Wheat could be purchased for \$2.00 per bushel. Eggs brought 2 or 3 cents per dozen; butter 8 cents per pound; dressed chickens brought 2½ cents per lb. Roads were poor. However, wild fruit, such as grapes, and plums were plentiful. Also large herds of antelope, deer and buffalo proved a source of meat for the pioneers, also prairie chickens were abundant. Men seined fish from the streams.

Indeed the first year was a trying one. Even Indians came and begged and what they could not get, they stole. Even the watch dogs disappeared into the Indian pots. A mysteriously poisoned cow of Herman Braasch's herd was carried off and eaten.

Besides this Indian menace we find the pioneers were also hampered by blizzards, floods, fires and grasshoppers, which took a toll of property and livestock. After the first winter the courage of these early settlers increased. Crops could be planted, such as wheat, oats, corn, potatoes and garden vegetables. These were planted in quantities large enough to assure an adequate family supply.

Farming was done mostly by hand. Mr. Herman Braasch was the first to have any small grain, which he harvested from the land purchased of those men from Illinois. August Raasch got an eight-horse power threshing machine from Omaha in 1868. It became almost a community affair for all the neighbors used it. The first threshing demonstration was held in a field just north of the present Granada block.

These early pioneers were resourceful about clothing. The men sheared their sheep. The women carded wool, spun the yarn, and wove the material for clothing on hand looms. Braaschs owned a loom which had cost them \$75.00, and the women wove the cloth and blankets. The men were very hardy in those days for they wore no underwear and no overcoats. Doctors were scarce. A teaspoon of black pepper seemed to be an effective remedy and more popular with most of the pioneers. However, they were helpless against contagious diseases. Dr. F. Verges,





who had homesteaded in Pierce County, was the nearest doctor. He usually made his headquarters in the Braasch home.

### Pastimes

The pioneers did not lack entertainment. They played card games, such as "High Five" and "Black Peter". They would go visiting for a whole day. They had all things in common. They shared what they had. They were neighborly towards all.

One incident seems outstanding. They had a party celebrating the engagement of August Raasch and Maria Rohrke on January 16, 1872. Two months previous to the announcement, Father Raasch had submitted the proposal to Father Rohrke. Father Rohrke had requested eight days to consider the proposal and submit it to Maria. In due time an answer in the affirmative was returned by father Rohrke.

### Religion

Religion played an important part in the lives of these early settlers. Services were held regularly in the homes under the leadership of Mr. Herman Braasch and Mr. F. Wagner. In October, 1886, their own pastor, the Rev. John Heckendorf came. He built his log house near the Braasch homestead.

In the early fall of 1867, they built their own church, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran, the first of any denomination in this section of Nebr. Herman Braasch, Fred Wagner and Gottlieb Rohrke were the first deacons. Pine logs purchased by Herman Braasch at Fremont and cut in the sawmill near West Point was the first contribution to a church. Some native cottonwood was used. The church members used nearly two hundred oxen to pull the logs from the yellow banks north west of Battle Creek, to the church site. In this building 24x30, Rev. Heckendorf also taught the first school in Madison county. Also in this church in 1867 was solemnized the first wedding of the Norfolk colony; when William Wagner and his cousin. Lousia Wagner were married. A year later they erected a new church and school house.

Among these pioneers we find not only hardships, ups and downs, fun and frolick, but also sorrow. Mrs. Braasch died after one year in her new home—Sept. 24, 1867. The Herman Braasches had nine children: Mrs. Ferdinand Haase, Mrs. William Duehring, Fred Braasch, Herman Braasch, Mrs. August Brisso, August Braasch, Mrs. John Raasch, Mrs. Frank Wickert, and Ed Braasch.

Mr. Braasch later remarried. He wed Alvina Willie. One daughter was born to this union—Mrs. Obed Raasch. The only survivor at this time is Mrs. Frank Wickert.

Indeed, much could and can be said about these early courageous pioneers.

You, their descendants, are today reaping the benefits of your early forebearers by their courage, their quest for future good and their desire to build a future for their children and children's children. No better way can you repay these early pioneers by reminding yourself often of their courage, hardships and zeal, and then applying yourself to the task of building your present and future homes on the Christian faith which was so prominent in these early settlers. May you ask the Lord to help you realize your position in life contending for the Faith of our forefathers.





"THANK YOU"

To my dear departed Mother, Mrs. Royel Uecker, for her inspiration and time spent in helping me with the Cronology.

To Jim Hall, N. B. Moran, Cy Lederer, H. Butcher, W. Dennis Phillip J. Dossero and V. Turley. for their time and patience when setting this up.

To Esther Kolterman Hansen for permission to use portions of her book, "Along Pioneer Trails in Pierce County".

To the Nebraska State Historical Society for the Education Leaflets and Pictures.

To the Nebraska Farmer for the use of articles, Authors of which I can't remember.

To Edward Albert Landgraf, M.A. for the interesting tidbits gleaned from "Early History of Norfolk," in the Norfolk Daily News.

To all who contributed information about their families and to Rev. Fritze, Rev. Spaude, and Rev. Krueger.





# Pioneer History of the Braasch Family

JUL 21 1966

Information accumulated since the  
Book was printed

Mrs. Elvira Weiland  
Osmond, Nebraska  
Rt. # 2 68765

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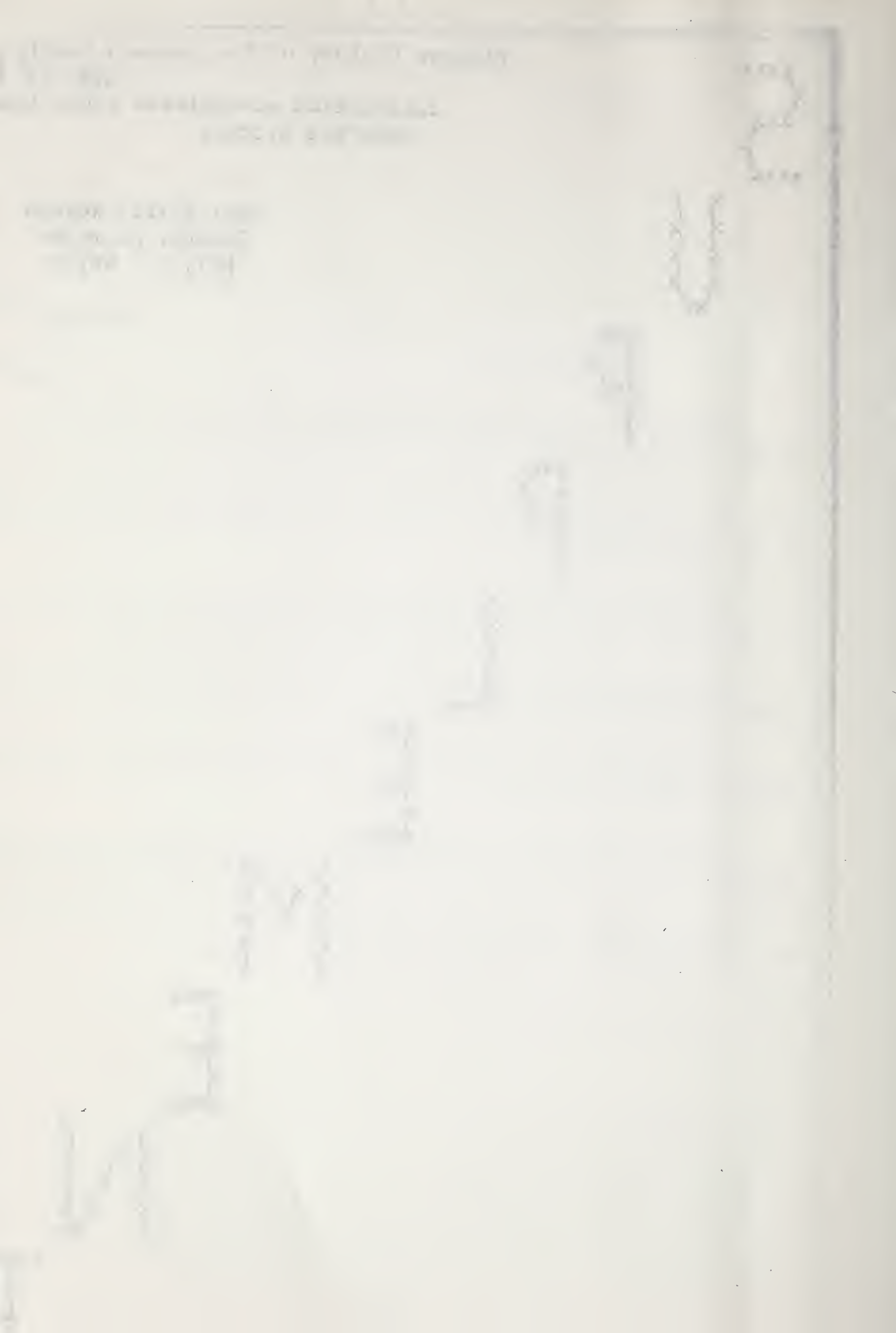
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Page 4.

I.2.1(a).1(b). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Wm. Stasch married-January 11, 1933

2(c). Francis Stasch

Johnnie Searcy

Divorced

Married--September 4, 1956

2(b). Waunita Ferris

John Mathews

\*January 6, 1915

Married--October 8, 1935

1(c). Jay Mathews

Barbara Roe

\*March 4, 1938

Married--June 9, 1957

1(d). Kimberly Ann

\*March 11, 1958

2(d). Mark Lee

\*April 14, 1959

Page 5.

2(a). Alex Miller

Death--April 22, 1965

3(a).2(b). Lois Jeanette Dederman

Albert LeBlanc

\*May 27, 1921

Married--December 31, 1955

1(c). Suzanne Marie

\*August 18, 1957

2(c). Paul Alan

\*October 5, 1959

3(c). Cheryl Ann

\*

3(b). Arthur Dederman

Gladys Klingenger

\*January 9, 1931

Married--January 5, 1958

1(c). Douglas Alan

\*August 10, 1959

2(c). Brenda Marie

\*December 18, 1961

3(c). John Arthur

\*March 22, 1965

3.1(a).2(b). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Ed Kasal

2(c). Jody Kasal

\*June 28, 1956

3(b). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Rodger Andersen

2(c). Mark Hall

\*December 29, 1958

Page 6.

4.1(a). Mrs. Conrad Beitz Death--November 3, 1957

1(b). Mrs. Vernon Beitz

\*May 17, 1916

1(c). John Conrad Beitz

\*September 20, 1940

Avis Ellwein

\*March 5, 1942

Married--June 25, 1961

1(d). Mark John

\*January 11, 1963





Page 6.

4.1(a).1(b).2(c). Jean Karen Beitz

Walter Mielke

\*December 5, 1932

Married--March 29, 1959

1(d). Karen

\*December 31, 1959

2(d). Kenneth

\*Dec. 24,-Dec.25, 1960

3(d). Kevin Walter

\*April 7, 1963

3(c). Catherine Elaine

\*July 11, 1943

Delbert Ronald Mielke \*

Married--September 6, 1964

4(c). Margaret Marie Beitz

Thomas Dale Brauer

Married--April 21, 1963

5(c). James Vernon

\*December 16, 1946

2(a). Gertrude Zuelow Scheer Death--January , 1960

5. Mrs. Julius Haase

Death--September 20, 1960

Page 7.

6.2(a).1(b). Jeanine Huebner

Ray Stake

\*May 6, 1935

Married--November 26, 1958

1(c). Eric Thorwald

\*January 21, 1961

2(c). Monica Anne

\*June 15, 1962

3(c). Kurt Harold

\*August 19, 1963

Page 8.

4(a). Mrs &amp; Mrs. James Snyder (Helen Huebner-dead)

1(b). Susan Jane Snyder

John Mirus

\*July 21, 1941

Married--August 21, 1965 in Germany

5(a). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Maurice Osman

1(b). Neal Gene Osman

Elisa Terhune

\*August 8, 1942

Married--January 16, 1965

II. Wilhelmina Braasch &amp; Wm. Duehring married-November 29, 1868











Page 10.

2(a).5(b). Judith Lau

Larry E. Meyer

\*June 30, 1940

Married--June 24, 1962

1(c). Tracy Jane

\*November 25, 1963

3(a). Mrs. Herbert Lau

Death--April 5, 1964

1(b). Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Wendt

1(c). LaDonna Jean

\*May 8, 1956

2(c). Mark Thomas

\*May 7, 1958

3(c). Annette Lynn

\*April 29, 1960

4(c). Scott Daniel

\*September 28, 1961

5(c). Steven

\*December 30, 1962

2(b). Don Lau

Alice Buss

\*November 21, 1942

Married--August 30, 1959

1(c). Nancy Marie

\*March 24, 1960

2(c). Vickie Lynn

\*June 12, 1961

3(b). Lou Jean Lau

4(a).1(b). Larry Lau

5(a). Irene Lau

\*February 2, 1897-Nov. 26, 1900

Page 11.

2.2(a).1(b). Edgar Schreiner

Death--November 8, 1959

1(c). Mark Allen

\*November 8, 1959

3(a).1(b). Mr. & Mrs. Duane Sellin

3(a).

4(a). William Raschke

Death--July 11, 1960

1(b).1(c). Judith Raschke

William Watson

Married--March 5, 1961

1(d). William, Jr.

\*November 2, 1962

Page 12

3(b). Mr. & Mrs. Francis Fierce

4(c). Dean Francis

\*November 19, 1957

5(c). Mary

\*September 29, 1963





Page 12.

4(b). Kenneth Raschke

Sylvia Ellington

\*August 4, 1936

Married--August 15, 1959

1(c). Eddie

\*December 15, 1960

2(c). Kay Lynn

\*September 7, 1962

5(b). Connie Raschke not Jr.

Donald Garrison

\*September 30, 1937

Married--August 18, 1962

5(a). Walter Sellin

Death--June 17, 1957

1(b). Mrs. Norman Sellin

Death--December 6, 1956

Page 13,

4(b). Ray Ryan

\*April 29, 1938

1(c). Daniel Dean

\*July 27, 1957

2(c). Jeffery Scott

\*March 30, 1960

3(c). Karen Laurie

\*

Page 14.

III.1. Walter Julius Braasch

\*January 24, 1877--April . 1921

Lula AnnKing

\*August 14, 1883--December 18, 1900

Married--September 10, 1901

1(a). Kenneth Braasch

\*August 20, 1903

Gladys Timm

\*February 5, 1911

Married--November 2, 1929

2(a). Fred Braasch

\*January 21, 1912

Marion

\*April 15, 1917

Married--January , 1935

3(a). Doris Braasch

\*November 13, 1910

Cecil Van Vleck

\*November 28,

Married--

4(a). William Braasch

\*August 14, 1918

Lois Chaney

\*February 2, 1923

Married--

5, Mrs. Charles Braasch

Death--December 3, 1956

1(a).1(b). Constance Braasch

\*February 27, 1947

Page 15

VI.1. Elte Braasch

\*June 18, 1879--October 10, 1959

Emil Braasch

\*April 13, 1978--February 11, 1914





Page 15.

VI.1.1(a). Gilbert Braasch married Marjorie Mohr not Mahn

Page 16.

2(a). Mabel Braasch

Walter Krohn

\*1906 not 1905

1(b). Susan Helene not Ellen \*February 23, 1938

Page 16.

2.4(a). Howard Dietz

Death--February 21, 1960

Page 17.

V.1.1(a).1(b). Howard Clark

Death--January 29, 1966

2(b). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Marvin Schultz

3(c). Peter

\*July 28, 1951

Adopted in Germany in 1957

Page 18.

3(b). Laura Lee Sangbrush

\*July 14, 1924

2(a). Ellen Hedge

\*January 18, 1898

1(b). Dwight Schultz

Ruth Von Seggern

\*June 15, 1931

Married--December 22, 1957

1(c). Sheryl Ellen

\*October 29, 1958

2(c). Jeffery Ralph

\*February 11, 1960

3(a). Louis Browne

Death--October 10, 1959

2(b). Gerald Lloyd Browne

Paula Zabala

\*October 3, 1937

Married--August 3, 1957

4(a).1(b). Helen Jean Mallory

\*August 25, 1927

Page 19.

2(b). Leo Reisig

\*April 7, 1924--

Lois Cook Reisig

Milton Pingle

\*February 24, 1930

Married--November 17, 1956

3(c). Deborah Ann

\*January 17, 1958

7(a). Elinor Nickols

\*December 31, 1908

Married--February 16, 1935

2(b). David Victor Schultz

Margaret Mary Jackson \*

Married--June 10, 1961

1(c). Deborah Lynn

\*May 29, 1962

2(c). Diana Christine

\*October 2, 1963





Page 20.

8(a).1(b). John Pickett

Dana Rey Welbourne

\*December 31, 1935

Married--

1(c). Tena Gay

\*October 9, 1956

2(c). Bonny Kay

\*October 22, 1958

3(c). David Alan

\*June 17,

3(b). Frank Pickett

Rhelda Mason

\*January 21, 1943

Married--

1(c). Deanne Lynn

\*December 5, 1963

2(c). Donna Ann

\*July 24, 1965

Picture is Amelia &amp; Josephine Haase not as stat

2. Laura Brisso

Death--November 26, 1928

Page 21,

2(a). Tom Dichner

Death--December 16, 1965

1(b). Tommy Dishner

Beverly Kinzer

\*January 27, 1939

Married--October 23, 1956

1(c). Susan Kay

\*August 24, 1957

2(c). David John

\*July 14, 1959

3(c). Joan Maye

\*October 29, '61-Mar. 12, 1962

4(c). Boyd Paul

\*August 5, 1963

3.2(a).2(b). Gene Kuhl

Married--

1(c). Wm. Martin

\*October 23, 1958

2(c). Robert John

\*June 12, 1961

5. Albertina Brisso married Ed Morris--June 24, 1906

1(a). Ethel Morris

\*March 30, 1907-August 25, 1965

Art Haines

\*April 21, 1904-March 12, 1960

Married---October 7, 1927

1(b). Rodger Haines \*February 18, 1932-Mar. 7, 1948

2(b). Donald Haines

\*January 24, 1935

Therine Swanson

\*November 26, 1932

Married--July 24, 1954

1(c). Penny Lynn

\*March 26, 1962

2(c). Timothy Eric

\*May 30, 1964

Page 22.

3(b). Connie Lee Haines

\*July 2, 1938

Earl Bunce

\*November 14, 1935

Married--November 13, 1959



The first part of the report  
deals with the general  
situation of the country  
and the progress of the  
work done during the  
year.

The second part of the report  
deals with the results of the  
work done during the year.

The third part of the report  
deals with the financial  
statement of the year.  
The fourth part of the report  
deals with the general  
conclusions of the year.

The fifth part of the report  
deals with the general  
conclusions of the year.

The sixth part of the report  
deals with the general  
conclusions of the year.

The seventh part of the report  
deals with the general  
conclusions of the year.

Page 22.

5.1(a).3(b).Mr. &amp;Mrs. Earl Bunce

1(c). James Arthur

\*February 3, 1961

2(c). Phyliss Ann

\*March 5, 1963

2(a). Buelah Morris married Jack McGregor-March 11, 1925

1(b). David Lee McGregor

Helen Jean Salberg

\*June 22, 1933

Married--August 7, 1954

1(c). Scott John

\*July 29, 1956

2(c). William Manning

\*February 2, 1959

3(c). Brian Kenneth

\*June 20, 1962

2(b). John Lewis McGregor

Florence Gioine

\*October 29, 1935

Married--March 17, 1962

2(a). Buelah Morris married F.H. Carlson--September 5, 1953

Divorced and has taken name McGregor back

3(a). Lester Morris married Bernice McLaughlin-June 7, 1930

1(b). Beverly Morris

\*March 14, 1934

Elert Mattson

\*September 26, 1930

Married--October 21, 1953

2(c). Deborah Ann

\*October 21, 1957

3(b). Richard Morris

Marilyn Thompson

Married--December 21, 1963

1(c). Kimberly Renee

\*January 5, 1965

5(a). Edith Morris married Frank Kumerfield\*June 3, 1940

1(b). Gary Kumerfield

Mary Lou Theobald

\*August 18, 1941

Married--June 16, 1962

1(c). Lisa Marie

\*August 19, 1963

6(a). Mildred Morris married Jack Ryan--June 7, 1949

Jack Ryan \*January 26, 1917--October 1, 1964

Page 23.

7(a). Martha Morris married Maurice Maurice Moore-March 6,

Maurice Moore

\*May 20, 1918

1943

5(b). Nancy Moore

\*February 25, 1953

8(a). Bonnie Morris married Virgil Bunkers--August 14, 1940

1(b). Rita Jean Bunkers

Dale Plowman

\*February 19, 1940

Married--September 2, 1960





Page 23.

8(a).1(b). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Dale Plowman

1(c). Mark Andrew

\*August 4, 1961

2(c). David Arthur

\*November 9, 1962

3(c). Lori Lynn

\*July 31, 1964

8(a). Bonnie Morris married Gilbert Olson-July 23, 1946

9(a). LaVonne Morris married Joseph Horwath-Febr.7, 1948

6. Herman Brisso

Death--August 7, 1958

1(a). Irma Brisso married Marvin Crabb-December 30, 1945

1(b). Cheryl Crabb

Arnold Mount

\*September 24, 1943

Married--June 25, 1965

2(b). Micheal Crabb

\*March 10, 1953

Page 24.

7. Louise Brisso

Death--February 12, 1934

Paul Huebner

Death--November 10, 1965

1(a). Vivian Huebner married Wm. Fleming--July 11, 1953

3(a). Marjorie Huebner married Arnold Schilling-Jan.16, '31

1(b). Jimmy Schilling \*January 22, 1933-Nov. 8, 1936

3(a). Marjorie Huebner Schilling married Ray Hammond--  
November 30, 1951

Ray Hammond Death--January , 1962

4(a). Doris Huebner married Ike Gabbard--

5(b). Cynthia Louise \*July 2, 1959

8. Julius Brisso

\*October 12, 1890-May 7, 1960

Emily Gruenwald

\*October 11, 1892-June 19, 1955

Married--January 14, 1914

1(a). Alberteen Brisso \*July 31, 1915-January 7, 1966

Gerald McCabe \*April 14, 1905--March 5, 1962

Married--June 11, 1937

2(a). Oliver Brisso

\*April 17, 1918

Margaret Gray

\*February 10, 1916

Married--October 12, 1940

Page 25

9. Mrs. Ezra Brisso

Death--March 20, 1964

3(a). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Ted Brisso

3(b). Ruth Ann

\*June 20, 1959





Page 25.

- 9.5(a). Spencer Brisso married Alice Ertzner-July 19, 1952  
 2(b). Karyn Kay \*June 4, 1956  
 3(b). Deanne Lynn \*August 29, 1960

Page 26.

10. Herbert Brisso Death--April 20, 1958  
 1(a). Robert Brisso  
     Lorraine Musulman \*August 11, 1923  
     Married--February 19, 1961  
 1(b). Joseph Robert \*May 14, 1964  
 2(a). Mr. & Mrs. Rodger Brisso  
 3(b). Katheryne Joanne \*January 2, 1956  
 4(b). Mathew Laurence \*February 23, 1957  
 5(b). Barbara Jean \*February 21, 1959  
 6(b). Rodger Joseph \*April 2, 1965  
 3(a). Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hall Divorced  
 1(b). Janet Elaine Hall-corrected  
 5(b). Suzanne Marie \*April 4, 1956  
 6(b). Anthony Herbert \*June 20, 1957  
 7(b). Mary Jean \*April 7, 1959

- VI. August Braasch Death--April 28, 1939  
 Augusta Knaak \*March 11, 1865-April 25, 1951  
 1. Marie Braasch Death--October 2, 1915  
 1(a). 1(b). Elizabeth Seegabarth  
     Wayne Gnewuch \*May 3, 1935  
     Married--June 3, 1958  
     1(c). Brion \*December 15, 1960  
     2(c). Angela Marie \*March 6, 1963  
     3(c). Nancy Beth \*January 24, 1965  
 2(b). Robert Seegabarth  
     Janet Fuelberth \*September 17, 1938  
     Married--April 17, 1961  
     1(c). Julie Ann \*March 11, 1964

Page 27.

- 3(b). Joann Seegabarth  
     Marlin Winter \*July 17, 1938  
     Married--March 1, 1959  
     1(c). Kelly Ann \*October 1, 1959  
 2(a). Herman Muelheisen \*December 27, 1905-Nov. 15, 1957  
     Married Hilda Ahlman--June 6, 1936





Page 28.

2.1(a).1(b). Gerald Rossmeier

Geraldine Dinkel

\*January 28, 1936

Married--February 16, 1958

1(c). Micheal Lee

\*December 9, 1958

2(c). Steven Jay

\*October 9, 1959

3(c). Cynthia Sue

\*January 10, 1964

3.1(a). Lucille Braasch

George Easton

\*June 7, 1911

Married--October 3, 1955

2(a).1(b). Ann Gruett

Peter Majurak

\*September 6, 1942

Married--November 18, 1962

1(c). Sara Sue

\*January 28, 1964

2(b). Mark Gruett

Joan Maye Raasch

\*May 3, 1943

Married--September 13, 1964

4.1(a).1(b). LaVonne Dinkel

Ronald Mueller

\*

Married--September 11, 1960

1(c). Sherry Lynne

\*April 28, 1961

2(c). Cynthia Kay

\*September 1, 1962

2(b). Delbert Dinkel

Judith Koeppe

\*January 30, 1946

Married--May 26, 1963

1(c). Robbie Joe

\*November 24, 1963

Page 29.

2(a).1(b). Merlin Heinemann

Coleen Smith

\*January 8, 1946

Married--March 29, 1964

2(b). Eldon Henemann

Ellen Baker

\*September 28,

Married--September 12, 1965

6. Alfred Braasch

Death--December 3, 1964

1(a). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Norman Braasch

1(b). Ann Liesa

\*September, 1962

7.1(a). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Don Walth

2(b).





Page 29.

7.2(a). Don Kortje

Beverly Retzlaff \*

Married--October 24, 1957

1(b). Premature

2(b). Donna Rae

\*August , 1962-August , 1962

3(b). David

\*October 23, 1963

4(b). Kimberly Ann

\*September 18, 1965

3(a). LaJean Kortje

Melvin Petersen \*

Married--

1(b). Melanie

\*March 8, 1956

2(b). Debra

\*June 15, 1959

4(a). Sharon Kortje

Gene Dolesh \*

Married--

1(b). Vickie

\*

2(b). Lesa

\*

Page 30.

8.1(a). Mr. & Mrs. Donald Forinash

2(b). David

\*December 7, 1957

3(b). Charles

\*December 13, 1958

4(b). Mark

\*August 7, 1961

VII.1. Henry Fisher

Death--November 4, 1961

3. Royel Uecker

Death--January 4, 1959

1(a). Martha Schultz Uecker Death--December 4, 1956

Harold Uecker

Delilah Petersen

\*June 27, 1907

Married--May 12, 1962

1(b). Karen Uecker

Harlow Schnoor

\*January 1, 1940

Married--June 28, 1959

1(c). Deborah Lynn

\*July 22, 1960

2(c). Cindy Lee

\*July 3, 1963

2(a). Herman Wagner

Death--September 9, 1956

Elvira Uecker Wagner

Harold Weiland

\*October 2, 1912

Married--May 31, 1961

1(b). Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Kilgore

1(c). Roger Kilgore

\*June 15, 1957

2(c). Linda Kilgore

\*March 12, 1959





Page 31.

2(a).4(b). Jerry Wagner

Barbara Maas

\*August 30, 1941

Married--September 28, 1958

1(c). Cynthia

\*April 25, 1959

2(c). David Randal

\*June 30, 1962

5(b). Sharon Wagner

Larry Kaufman

\*November 23, 1941

Married--November 29, 1959

6(b). Elaine Jeanette adopted by Harold Weiland-May 12  
1962

7(b). Irene Kay

"

"

"

"

"

8(b). Dennis Dale

"

"

"

"

"

Page 32.

4.2(a). Edgar Schleuter

Death--July 17, 1964

3(a).1(b). Marlin Bree

Lois Gutzmer

\*May 18, 1935

Married--October 5, 1963

2(b). Verda Lee Bree

H. George Herrin, Jr. \*January 21, 1936

Married--November 5, 1956

1(c). Katheryne Kay

\*June 6, 1959

2(c). Susan Ann

\*July 6, 1960

3(c). Lesa Faye

\*June 7, 1962

Page 33.

5.1(a).1(b). Judith Kay Raasch

Willard Lage

\*June 25, 1937

Married--June 18, 1961

1(c). Jenifer Sue

\*February 9, 1963

2(b). LaJean Raasch

\*June 29, 1943

Ted Strong

\*September 27, 1940

Married--June 28, 1962

1(c). Lisa Shawn

\*September 14, 1964

6. Louis Raasch

\*Dec. 14, 1889-August 13, 1964

1(a). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Raymond Raasch

1(b). Micheal Lee

adopted \*July 1, 1956

2(b). Patricis Kay

"

\*September 26, 1959





Page 34.

8.1(a).1(b). Joan Maye Raasch

Mark Gruett

\*June 22, 1943

Married--September 13, 1964

2(a). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Dale Raasch

2(b). Cynthia

\*September 20, 1900

2(a). Mr. &amp; Mrs. Arvia Raasch

1(b). Scott Lee

\*March 11, 1950

2(b). Nancy Jean

\*April 19, 1957

3(b). Todd Allen

\*July 22, 1960

Page 35.

9.1(a).1(b). Wm. John Borchers

\*February 5, 1946

10.2(a).Mr. &amp; Mrs. Carrol Westphalen

2(b). Bruce Carrol

\*January 24, 1956

3(b). Lyle Dean

\*June 18, 1957

4(b). Judy Mae

\*June 26, 1958

11.1(a). John Raasch

Theresa Wager

\*October 28, 1938

Married--November 9, 1956

1(b). Micheal John

\*September 2, 1959

2(b). Debra Sue

\*July 30, 1960

3(b). Ann Marie

\*July 5, 1961

2(a). Robert Raasch adopted by Mothers sister-Mrs. Phil  
Robert Lange Lange

Akemi Toni

\*August 30, 1937

Married--August 22, 1958 in Tokyo, Japan

Page 36.

VIII. Marie Braasch Wickert Death--April 26, 1957

1. John Ahlman

Death--April 9, 1956

Dora Wickert married John Ahlman--April 30, 1916

IX. Ed Braasch

Death--March 10, 1946

Augusta Wichert

Death--February 19, 1960

1. Lena Braasch

Death--January 21, 1963

1(a). Allen Andersen

\*December 24,

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Allen Andersen

2(b). Terri Rene

\*March 30, 1958

Page 37.

3. Ruth Braasch

Death--December 16, 1965





Page 37.

4.1(a). Mr. & Mrs. John Holtz

2(b). Gloria Lynne

\*February 18, 1958

Page 38.

2(a). LeRoy Bessert

LaVerne Morris

Married--June 4, 1965

\*July 18, 1943

X.1. Erna Oestreich Raasch

\*September 24, 1898

Phillip Raasch, Sr. Married Erna Oestreich-March 1, 1922

1(a). Glendora Raasch

\*November 2, 1923

Robert Nordlie

\*

Page 39. 3(b). Kristine Ruth

\*July 5, 1956

4(b). Beth Ellen

\*July 15, 1959

2(a). Betty Lou Raasch

\*October 30,

James McCumber

\*March 1,

2(b). Rickey Jay

\*July 2, 1961

3(a). Patricia Harmer

\*July 22, 1932-Oct. 30, 1965

(Mrs. Dan Raasch)

2(b). Sally Ann

\*Sept. 10, 1953-Oct. 30, 1965

3(b). Steven Micheal

\*Aug. 16, 1960-Oct. 30, 1965

4(a). Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Raasch, Jr.

2(b). Heide Lynn

\*November 19, 1958

3(b). Jeffery

\*May 5, 1960





















